

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Blvd, Suite #1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Imperial County Clerk
940 Main Street, Suite 202
El Centro, CA 92243

Project Title: Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) 2017 Disadvantaged Communities Planning Initiative

Project Location:
Imperial County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Project is intended to develop an active transportation plan in a disadvantaged community and “pilot” an innovative planning methodology to help deliver low-cost, local plans across the region by leveraging regional planning tools (health/active transportation models and active transportation database) and SCAG Go Human engagement resources.

Disadvantaged communities in the SCAG region often lack quality active transportation infrastructure and face safety challenges. Without plans, these communities are at a disadvantage when applying for funding to address these deficiencies. In the SCAG region, only 26% of cities have bicycle plans and 11% have pedestrian plans.

The plan will be developed using a combination of traditional and innovative stakeholder outreach to reach disadvantaged community members. Outreach will involve community meetings and direct engagement with existing forums such as faith-based organizations as well as a tactical urbanism demonstration project held in conjunction with a community event.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:
Southern California Association of Governments

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:
Southern California Association of Governments

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)); Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines § 15002 (k)(1) – General Concepts; CEQA Guidelines § 15061 – Review for Exemption; CEQA Guidelines § 15301 (c) and 15301 (f) – Existing Facilities; CEQA Guidelines § 15304 (e) and 15304 (e) – Minor Alterations to Land; CEQA Guidelines § 15311 (a) and 15311 (c) – Accessory Structures; CEQA Guidelines § 15322 – Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes
- Statutory Exemptions

Reasons why project is exempt:

SCAG has reviewed the proposed project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15002 (k)(1) – General Concepts, and CEQA Guidelines § 15061 – Review for Exemption, and has determined that the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA because the scope of the project activities are included in the classes of projects which have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment.

Therefore SCAG has determined that the proposed project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to following:

- The Project would involve implementing six active transportation demonstration projects in Imperial, Los Angeles, and Ventura counties, that could foster the minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use of existing highways, streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails and similar facilities beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination, as set forth in the exemption under CEQA Guidelines §15301(c) - Existing Facilities;
- The Project includes basic data collection, research, experimental management and resource evaluation activities which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The project is strictly for information gathering purposes for possible future action which the agency has not yet approved, adopted or funded, as set forth in the exemption under CEQA Guidelines §15306- Information Collection
- The Project may involve developing temporary demonstration projects within the project cities that would exist for a limited duration on existing rights of way, as set forth in the exemption under CEQA Guidelines § 15304 (e) - Minor Alterations to Land;
- Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes: The Project would consist of temporary demonstration projects in the communities of Ojai, El Monte, Calexico, Long Beach, Pasadena, and Glendale, involving no physical changes in the area affected, which would fall under the exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines §15322 – Educational or Training Programs Involving No Physical Changes.

Project Approval Date: SCAG's Regional Council Approved the project on October 2, 2019
The California Transportation Commission awarded funding for this project on January 31, 2018.

CEQA Contact Person:	Phone Number:	Fax Number:	Email:
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Project Contact Person:	Phone Number:	Fax Number:	Email:
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Date received for filing at OPR: _____ Signature of Applicant: Ping Chang
Ping Chang, Manager
Compliance and Performance Monitoring
Southern California Association of Governments

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE