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CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: County Clerk County of Humboldt 825 5th Street Eureka, CA 95501 Office of Planning Research State Clearinghouse

FROM: City of Eureka, Lead Agency Development Services - Planning Kristen M. Goetz Principal Planner 531 K Street Eureka, CA 95501-1165 (707) 441-4160 planning@ci.eureka.ca.gov

PROJECT TITLE: Herrick Overpass Murals

PROJECT APPLICANT: City of Eureka Public Works - Engineering

PROJECT LOCATION: Herrick Overpass at the southern gateway to the City on Highway 101

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Eureka, in conjunction with Caltrans, is proposing to install murals on the Herrick Overpass. Both the northbound and southbound sides of the overpass would receive murals. The project is intended to beautify the urban infrastructure and provide a sense of place while entering and exiting the City of Eureka. Art and mural installations aid in harnessing a sense of community among residents as well as discouraging unwanted use and graffiti of the improved areas. Eureka is known for its local artists and extensive art community who are passionate about creating and maintaining their work.

Elements that pertain to this project include: applying for Caltrans encroachment permit, cleaning and preparing the intended mural locations, planning and implementing ideas via design and scaling, and painting of the overpass. The project will be incorporated and completed as a part of the Eureka Street Art Festival 2023. The Eureka Street Art Festival will run from July 31st through August 5th, 2023 and focuses on bringing art to public places in Eureka.

Preparation and installation of these murals will require pickup trucks, power operated lifts, scaffolding, ladders, drop cloths, lighting and necessary hand tools. An appropriate traffic control plan will be employed to provide access through and around the work area when necessary. Public service announcements will advise the public of the planned construction via Caltrans Public Information Officer; no long duration road closures will occur. Traffic will likely shift lanes,

but will continue through the work areas. Work over the travel lanes will occur after 600 p.m. so as to have less impact on the traveling public. Preparation of the overpass for painting will include power washing of the areas to be painted. Best Management Practices (BMP's) will be employed during power washing activities. BMP's include, but are not limited to, inlet protection, straw waddles and proper disposal of any waste materials.

EXEMPTION FINDINGS: The Lead Agency has determined that the above described activity is a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Lead Agency has further determined that the project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to a Class I categorical exemption (Section 15301, Existing Facilities), which exempts the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing or minor alteration of existing public and private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The project involves the painting of murals on an existing overpass. No construction or ground disturbance activities are anticipated. The Lead Agency has further determined the use of the categorical exemption is not barred by any one of the exceptions set forth in Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines.

The material supporting the above finding is on file with the City of Eureka's Engineering Division of Public Works. Copies of the document related to the evaluation of this project are available for review upon request at the City of Eureka, address above.

Kristen M. Goetz Principal Planner, City of Eureka

February 16, 2023 Date