NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

April 17, 2017

PROJECT TITLE: Slurry Seal Project – Districts 1, 2, & 3
Work Order Numbers: ZC6-0006, ZC6-0007, ZC6-0008; Task Code Z1530

PROJECT SPONSOR: Riverside County Transportation Department

PROJECT LOCATION: Located in Unincorporated Riverside County, Various Locations

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT: Districts 1, 2 & 3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Riverside County Transportation Department (COUNTY) proposes to provide slurry seal and chip seal treatments to existing pavement surfaces on various roads located in Districts 1, 2 and 3 of Riverside County. The work also involves replacing non-compliant curb ramps, removing and replacing thermoplastic crosswalk and pavement markings/paint traffic stripes, as well as, other work that may be required. Because all improvements will be conducted within the County’s right-of-way, the project will not involve the acquisition of additional right-of-way.

Slurry seal treatments consist of an application of a mixture of asphalt emulsion, aggregate (very small crushed rock), water, and other additives applied over the existing asphalt pavement surface. The treatments are implemented as preventative maintenance to extend the life of the current pavement and postpone the requirement for more costly pavement rehabilitation. Slurry seal treatments: 1) seal cracks, 2) restore lost pavement surface flexibility, 3) renew black pavement surface color, and 4) preserve the underlying pavement structure.

The Chip seal treatment adds a layer of “chips” or small crushed rock, over the slurry seal, which is used as a “wearing course” in areas of higher vehicle traffic. The Rubberized Chip seal treatment is the same as the Chip seal treatment; however, the chips are preheated and pre-coated with asphalt emulsion, and a sand flush coat is placed over the rubberized chips. Furthermore, crumb rubber, generated from processed scrap tires, which serves as a “modifier” will be added to the asphalt emulsion. In addition, crumb rubber is added, which gives the asphalt emulsion greater viscosity and improves pavement performance/properties, resulting in resistance to reflective cracking, resistance to rutting, and the longevity of the pavement life.

Furthermore, the project will involve the use of micro-surfacing. Micro-surfacing is similar to slurry seal because it consists of the application of a mixture of water, asphalt emulsion, aggregate (very small crushed rock), and chemical additives to an existing asphalt concrete pavement surface. Micro-surfacing also contains chemical additives which allow the material mixture to cure without relying on the sun or heat for evaporation.

See the attached Slurry Seal Project maps which identify the roads proposed for improvement. And see the Slurry Seal Treatment Index (p. 2) which lists the roads within each County Supervisorial District.

All roads are located within the Western Riverside County MSHCP. Many roads are located outside MSHCP Criteria Cells or Public/Quasi Public Lands. In this case, Section 7.1 of the Western Riverside County MSHCP has been interpreted, 1 such that, necessary operation and maintenance activities conducted for safety improvements, along existing roadways, outside Criteria Cells or Public/Quasi Public Lands are considered Covered Activities and are exempt from MSHCP survey and mitigation requirement. However, MSHCP Appendix C Best Management Practices (BMPs) will apply.

1 Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority, Letter to RCTD, dated April 27, 2006.

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For the slurry seal improvements within Public/Quasi Public Lands and/or Criteria Cells, Sections 7.2.1 and 7.3.4 of the Western Riverside County MSHCP state that necessary operation and maintenance activities conducted for safety purposes along existing roadways are permitted and are considered Covered Activities, subject to MSCHP Appendix C BMPs.

The Riverside County Transportation Department Staff conducted a review of the above referenced project and has determined that the proposal qualifies for a Categorical Exemption per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. The Riverside County Transportation Department has found that the above-described project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), based on the following:

California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, Section 15301 (c) – Existing Facilities –
There will be negligible or no expansion of existing use because the slurry seal activities will take place within the existing right-of-way. Existing streets are exempt from CEQA under Section 15301 (c).

By: Marcia Rose, Senior Transportation Planner

Signed: Russell Williams, Environmental Division Manager