

047-26

Print Form

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): City of Watsonville
250 Main Street Watsonville, CA 95076

County Clerk
County of: Santa Cruz County
701 Ocean Street, Rm. 310
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

(Address)

Project Title: Riverside Drive Sidewalk Replacement Improvement Project

Project Applicant: City of Watsonville

Project Location - Specific:

West Riverside Drive and Walker Street to West Riverside Drive and Locust Street

Project Location - City: Watsonville Project Location - County: Santa Cruz

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed project would replace curb, gutter, and sidewalk on West Riverside Drive for approximately 388 feet. The sidewalk replacement would occur on the side of the street where traffic is west bound. The proposed project would be constructed prior to the construction of a Caltrans project (by others), which does not propose to improve this segment. The current sidewalk at the proposed project sight has been unevenly raised and cracked in areas due to growing tree roots. The sidewalk replacement would improve pedestrian safety. The beneficiaries of the project are the citizens of Watsonville.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Watsonville

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Watsonville

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. State type and section number: 15301
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is consistent with State CEQA Exemption Class 1 - Existing Facilities Projects 15301 in accordance in accordance with Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15300 et seq. The proposed project fits within the parameters for existing highways and streets, sidewalks, and related facilities. The proposed project would replace approximately 388 feet of sidewalk. The proposed project would occur on existing sidewalk, roadway, and sidewalk shoulder containing ornamental trees. The improvements would benefit pedestrians traveling along the roadway. The proposed project would enhance public safety without adding automobile lanes. See Attachment A.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Christopher Gregorio Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 831-768-3071

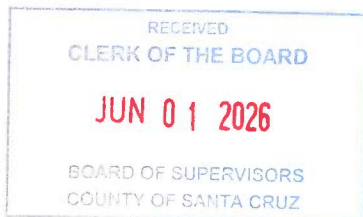
If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: Christopher Gregorio Date: 5-6-2026 Title: Engineering Associate

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR:
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.



THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICE FOR A PERIOD COMMENCING 6/2/2026 AND ENDING 7/7/2026

Attachment A-
CEQA Exemption Information Form
Riverside Drive Sidewalk Replacement Improvements Project
City of Watsonville

Project Overview

The Riverside Drive Sidewalk Replacement Improvement Project would replace existing sidewalk on West Riverside Drive. The current sidewalk at the proposed project sight has been unevenly uplifted from growing tree roots. The proposed project would be constructed prior to the construction of a Caltrans project (by others), which does not propose to improve this segment.

Project Location

The Riverside Drive Sidewalk Replacement Improvement Project (proposed project) is located in the City of Watsonville (City) and would include curb, gutter, and sidewalk replacement. The City of Watsonville is located in Santa Cruz County. See **Figure 1: Regional Map**. The sidewalk replacement would occur on the side of the street where traffic is west bound. The sidewalk improvements would occur from the intersection of West Riverside Drive and Walker Street to the intersection of West Riverside Drive and Locust Street. The privately owned fence running parallel to the project site on the north west side of the project site would be protected. See **Figure 2: Vicinity Map**.

Proposed Improvements/Description

The proposed project would replace the curb, gutter, and sidewalk on West Riverside Drive for approximately 388 feet (0.07 miles). The proposed project would replace existing drain pipes in kind up to the property line. A pole located on the sidewalk near the corner of West Riverside Drive and Locust Street would be removed. The proposed project would also include striping improvements, removing and reconstructing inlets, adjusting existing water valve cover, adjusting water meter box, and installing a retaining curb. No utility relocation would be required. See **Figure 3: Conceptual Plan**.

Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliant curb ramps would be removed and replaced by a Caltrans project and is therefore not in the scope of the proposed project. Trees along the sidewalk shoulder of the proposed project site would be removed by the city and is not within the scope of the proposed project.

Land Uses

The proposed project would occur entirely within existing roadways, existing pedestrian sidewalks, and sidewalk shoulder. No improvements would occur within previously undisturbed areas or sites with native vegetation. The area surrounding the proposed project is highly urbanized. The Watsonville land use map shows the project areas is within industrial land use. Surrounding and adjacent land uses Low Density Residential. Agricultural land is located approximately 0.17 miles southeast of the project site.

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTIONS

State CEQA Guidelines Section (§) 15300 defines projects for which a Categorical Exemption can be used and is derived from § 21084 of the Public Resources Code (PRC). This code requires CEQA to include a list of classes of projects which have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment and which shall, therefore, be exempt from the provisions of CEQA. Accordingly, the Secretary for Resources provided a list of classes of projects that do not have a significant effect on the environment and hence, were declared to be categorically exempt from the requirement for the preparation of environmental documents.

The proposed project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15301 (Class 1) Existing Facilities. The Class 1 exemption is applicable to projects that consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Subsection (c) provides additional detail in regarding to “existing facilities” to include:

(c) Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety), and other alterations such as the addition of bicycle facilities, including but not limited to bicycle parking, bicycle-share facilities and bicycle lanes, transit improvements such as bus lanes, pedestrian crossings, street trees, and other similar alterations that do not create additional automobile lanes.

The proposed project fits within the parameters for existing highways and streets, sidewalks, and related facilities. The proposed project would replace approximately 388 feet of sidewalk. The proposed project would occur on existing sidewalk, roadway, and sidewalk

shoulder. The improvements would benefit pedestrians traveling along the roadway. The proposed project would enhance public safety without adding automobile lanes.

Exceptions to Exemptions

CEQA includes a list of six conditions called exceptions to exemptions listed in State CEQA Guideline §15300.2. If a project were to violate any of the exceptions, an exemption would not apply. The proposed project would not violate any of the exceptions. It should be noted that the project qualifies for Class 1 exemption and is not subject to the exceptions listed below. Nonetheless, the following discussion is provided for informational purposes. Each exception is listed below followed by the reason it would not be violated:

- a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the proposed project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may be in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.
 - The proposed project does not rely on a Class 3, 4, 5, 6, or 11 exemption and therefore this exception does not apply. However, the project is in a built environment and is not located in a sensitive environment and no resources of hazardous or critical concern have been identified on the project site. Review of the State Water Resources Control Board Geotracker tool, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor Database, and the CORTESE list revealed no evidence of hazardous materials sites on the project site. There is a voluntary cleanup site listed at 135 Walker Street which is located directly northwest of the project site. The voluntary cleanup site is being actively treated and will therefore not impact the project site. The proposed project site is not located on the voluntary cleanup site and will therefore not impact the cleanup site. There are no Cortese-listed sites in the county of Santa Cruz. Sidewalk replacement would occur on already existing sidewalk and is not located on any such resources that is designated, mapped, or officially adopted pursuant federal, state of local law.

- b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

- The proposed project would not have an impact on surrounding areas, adjoining sites, or combine with other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable project to result in a cumulative impact over time. The proposed project consists of improving an existing sidewalk to provide enhanced safety. No additional lanes would be installed, and no increased vehicle trips would occur. The project site would occur on existing sidewalk, roadway, and sidewalk shoulder. The project site does not contain any vegetation or habitats that support sensitive species or other resources. The proposed project would not result in any impacts to the environment and would not make a cumulative contribution to any environmental impact.
- c) Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.
- The proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment. The proposed project would occur within a disturbed area in the public right-of-way and within areas with existing hardscape. The project site does not contain any sensitive habitat for federal or state listed species, and would not affect any known historic, cultural, or tribal cultural resources. The project would replace a portion of an existing sidewalk, does not propose any new structures, and does not have any unusual circumstances related to the project sites or surrounding areas that would result in the potential for impacts.
- d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.
- There are no scenic highways within or adjacent to the proposed project site. The nearest officially designated scenic highway is Route 156 located in Monterey County approximately 9 miles south of the project site. Route 152 is listed as an eligible scenic highway and is approximately 0.4 miles northeast of the project site. The proposed project would not remove any trees, damage any historic structures or scenic resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.

- e) **Hazardous Waste Sites.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.
- The proposed project does not occur within a hazardous waste site. Review of the State Water Resources Control Board Geotracker tool, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor Database, and the CORTESE list revealed no evidence of hazardous materials sites on the project site. There is a voluntary cleanup site listed at 135 Walker Street which is located directly northwest of the project site. The voluntary cleanup site is being actively treated and will therefore not impact the project site. The proposed project site is not located on the voluntary cleanup site and will therefore not impact the cleanup site. There are no Cortese-listed sites in the county of Santa Cruz. The proposed project would not use, handle, store, or dispose of substantial volumes of any acutely hazardous materials. All construction activities that would require the handling of potentially hazardous materials (i.e. fuels, solvents, paints, lubricants, etc), are commonly used for these types of work efforts and would be in conformance with all applicable regulations. No Hazardous waste sites would be affected by the project. No impacts from hazardous waste sites would occur.
- f) **Historical Resources.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.
- No historical resources would be affected. The proposed project includes removals and improvements to disturbed areas and existing hardscape that overlay previously disturbed areas that have been filled and compacted as part of previous construction activities. The proposed project would occur on existing sidewalk, in an area that has been previously disturbed and would require minimal excavation, therefore, there the proposed project would not result in disturbance of historical or archeological resources.

Conclusion

The proposed project is consistent with State CEQA Exemptions Class 1 – Existing Facilities in accordance with Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15300 et seq. No exceptions, as detailed in §15300.2, to any of the previously mentioned Exemptions would be applicable.

References

California Department of Toxic Substances Control. 2022. *DTSC's Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List - Site Cleanup (Cortese List)*. Available at: <https://dtsc.ca.gov/dtscs-cortese-list/> . Accessed: October 16, 2024.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). 2018. *California State Scenic Highway System Map*. Available at: <https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aaca> . Accessed: October 16, 2024.

City of Watsonville. 2024, 2005 General Plan. Available at: [2005 General Plan | Watsonville](#). Accessed: October 16, 2024.

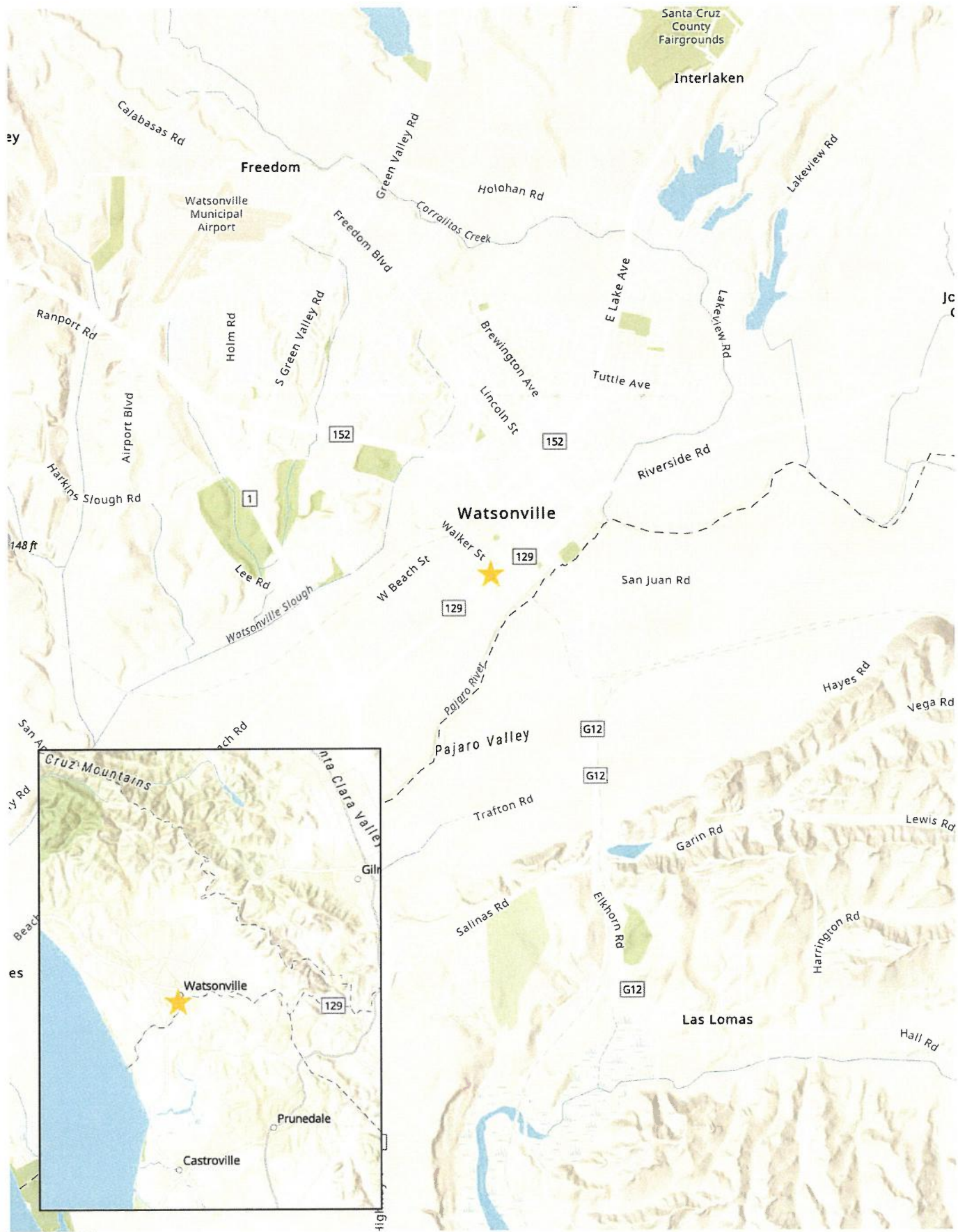
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). 2024. *FEMA Flood Map Service Center*. Available at: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>. Accessed: October 17, 2024.

National Park Service, 2024. National Register of Historic Places. Available at: <https://www.nps.gov/maps/full.html?mapId=7ad17cc9-b808-4ff8-a2f9-a99909164466> . Accessed: October 17, 2024.

State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control. 2024. *EnviroStor*. Available at: <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=Search> . Accessed: October 16, 2024.

State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control. 2024. *EnviroStor – California Spray and Chemical (44280006)*. Available at: https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=44280006. Accessed: October 17, 2024.

State Water Resources Control Board. 2024. *Geotracker*. Available at: [GeoTracker \(ca.gov\)](#) . Accessed: October 16, 2024.



Source: ESRI, 2024

Figure 1: Regional Map
 Riverside Drive Sidewalk Replacement Improvement Project
 City of Watsonville

 Not to scale

Kimley»Horn



Source: ESRI, 2024

Figure 2: Vicinity Map
 Riverside Drive Sidewalk Replacement Improvement Project
 City of Watsonville



Not to scale

Kimley»Horn



LEGEND - CHOOSE MORE SITES ✕

- 🔴 LUST Cleanup Sites - REMOVE
- 🟢 Cleanup Program Sites - REMOVE
- 🟡 Military Cleanup Sites - REMOVE
- 🟠 Military Privatized Sites - REMOVE
- 🟤 Military UST Sites - REMOVE
- 🟢 Military UST Privatized Sites - REMOVE

Signifies a Closed Site

ACTIVE MAP COVERAGES:

- Military Bases - - REMOVE

☰ LIST SITES VISIBLE ON MAP