

**CITY OF FRESNO
CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. PW00903**

THE PROJECT DESCRIBED HEREIN IS DETERMINED TO BE CATEGORICALLY
EXEMPT FROM THE PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 19 OF THE STATE CEQA GUIDELINES.

APPLICANT: City of Fresno
Department of Public Works
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721

PROJECT LOCATION: Intersections of Butler Avenue and Eighth Street, and Orange Avenue and Lowe Avenue within the jurisdiction of the City of Fresno.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The City of Fresno Department of Public Works proposes making improvements to the offset intersection of Butler Avenue and Eighth Street, and the offset intersection of Orange Avenue and Lowe Avenue. The improvements at Butler Avenue and Eighth Street will provide a new traffic signal, curb, gutter, residential drive approaches, and sidewalk construction from the southerly segment of Eighth Avenue to the east by approximately 360 feet; the replacement of accessible ramps at all four corners of the project location at Butler Avenue and Eighth Street; roadway grind and overlay for the southerly segment of Eighth Street; and restriping of the project intersection. These Butler Avenue and Eighth Street improvements will require minor acquisitions of rights-of-way from properties such as 3742 E Butler Ave (APN 471-051-08), 1065 S Orange Ave (APN 470-131-25), 1040 S Orange Ave (APN 470-116-12), 3742 E Butler Ave (APN 471-051-01), and a temporary construction easement at 3804 E Butler Ave (APNs 471-052-01 and 471-052-02). The temporary construction easement will be used to permit construction to conform the land to the roadway. The improvements at Orange Avenue and Lowe Avenue will provide a new traffic signal, approximately 300ft of curb and gutter along Orange Avenue, a residential drive approach, approximately 80ft of sidewalk along Orange Avenue, the replacement of accessible ramps at all five corners of the project location at Orange Avenue and Lowe Avenue; and restriping of the project intersection.

This project is exempt under Section(s) 15301/Class 1 and 15302/Class 2 of the State of California CEQA Guidelines.

EXPLANATION:

Class 1 exemptions, for projects pertaining to Existing Facilities, consist 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 use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. Examples include but are not limited to: Existing facilities of publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services; existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar

facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety); Rehabilitation of existing facilities to meet current standards of public health and safety; and, the Addition of safety or health protection devices for use in conjunction with existing facilities, including navigational devices.

Class 2 exemptions, for projects involving Replacement or Reconstruction, consist of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. Examples include but are not limited to: Replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity; and, Conversion of overhead electric utility distribution systems to underground including connection to existing overhead electric utility distribution lines where the surface is restored to the condition existing prior to the undergrounding.

The proposed Butler Avenue and Eighth Street improvements involve minor alteration to the rights-of-way with intersection improvements to improve public safety (vehicles and pedestrians). These improvements include a new traffic signal, curb, gutter, residential drive approaches, and sidewalk construction. Additionally, the accessible ramps at this intersection will be replaced, and the road will be repaved and restriped. This will require the City to obtain a temporary construction easement along a portion of Butler Avenue to conform the existing land to the roadway. The proposed Orange Avenue and Lowe Avenue improvements consist of a traffic signal with intersection and roadway improvements, including 300ft of curb and gutter along Orange Avenue, a residential drive approach, approximately 80ft of sidewalk along Orange Avenue, the replacement of accessible ramps at all five corners of this intersection, and restriping at the intersection. These updates will improve the public safety (vehicles and pedestrians) at the intersection of Orange Avenue and Lowe Avenue. Because these intersections already exist and these changes will only update the existing facilities and improve public safety, this project is exempt from CEQA review pursuant to Section 15301/Class 1 of the CEQA Guidelines. Additionally, because the improvements will be located on the same site as the existing intersections and will serve substantially the same purpose, this project is exempt from CEQA review pursuant to Section 15302/Class 2 of the CEQA Guidelines

None of the exceptions to Categorical Exemptions set forth in the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2 apply to this project. Furthermore, the proposed project is not expected to have a significant effect on the environment. Accordingly, a categorical exemption, as noted above, has been prepared for the project.

No adverse environmental impacts will occur as a result of the proposed project.

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