

Attachment B

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN: 059-140-023

Case No.: Not Applicable

Location: South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station, 4430 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, California 93110

Project Title: South Coast Recycling & Transfer Station Storm Drain Improvements Project

Project Description: The South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS) is located at and is owned and operated by the County of Santa Barbara. The facility opened in 1967 and processes up to 550 tons of non-hazardous waste per day. The station receives commercial roll-off containers, as well as waste brought in by residents and small, non-franchised haulers (e.g. landscapers). The South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station also processes approximately 200 tons per day of recyclable materials including commingled recyclables, electrical appliances, automobile batteries, bicycles, Christmas trees, construction and demolition debris, electronic items, used tires, wood and yard waste.

The site has a permitted area of 8.3 acres of which 5.5 acres are used for industrial operations including storage of co-mingled recyclables, green waste and mulch, and buildings used for maintenance and weighing activities. The remaining areas consist of moderately vegetated hillsides, administrative buildings and a parking lot (Figure 1).

Operation of the site requires compliance with the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities (General Permit), Order 2014-0057-DWQ (NPDES No. CAS000001), issued by the State Water Resources Control Board. The purpose of the project is to comply with new General Permit requirements, comply with a recent consent decree entered into with Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, and generally improve storm water drain controls at the site. The project includes new storm water drainage controls at SCRTS to protect water quality by redirecting storm water discharge from the site to the Goleta Sanitation District for treatment prior to discharge, and by providing a cover over the comingled recyclable storage pile. Project activities will include:

- construction of a storm water collection/detention tank (61.9 foot diameter and peak height of 17 feet) near the southern end of the site with a capacity of approximately 0.6 acre-feet;
- clearing and grading for the detention tank area (cut 400 cubic yards [cy], fill 510 cy);
- construction of an 8-inch diameter above-ground pipeline (approximately 2,000 linear feet). The pipeline would cross County Road underground and run along the east side of County Road until tying into the Goleta Sanitation District sewer line at Calle Real;

- clearing and grading for the pipeline (30 cy spoil based on a trench 3 feet wide by 4 feet deep);
- backfilling of the inactive loading pit near the current mattress storage area in order to relocate waste tire storage (460 cy fill);
- and construction of a metal, cantilever canopy over the comingled recyclable stockpile, approximately 150 feet by 50 feet (approximately 7,500 square feet), with a height not to exceed 25 feet.

All storm water runoff from the industrial operations area will continue to be collected by ten drainage inlets (DIs), which convey the storm water to a clarifier at the southern end of the site. During a Design Storm (85th percentile for 24-hour storm) or storm smaller than a Design Storm, storm water will be conveyed to the detention tank prior to discharge. From the detention tank, storm water will be discharged to the Goleta Sanitation District during off-peak hours, between 9 pm and 5 am, at a maximum flow rate of 200 gallons per minute. Construction for the project is estimated to take 6 months.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division.

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: CEQA Guideline Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land), and 14 CRR 15282(k) (Other Statutory Exemptions)

Reasons to support exemption findings:

CEQA does not apply to the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures (CEQA Guidelines Section 15303), minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes (CEQA Guidelines Section 15304), or the installation of new pipeline per Public Resources Code §21080.21 (subsurface pipeline in a public street). The proposed project involves the construction of a limited number of new storm water management facilities and associated grading at the existing South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS) to protect and improve storm water quality discharging from the site. The storm water collection/detention tank and metal canopy and associated grading would be within the previously developed and disturbed areas of the SCRTS site on slopes less than 10 percent. Installation of the tank may require the removal of approximately five non-native ornamental trees that do not have significant scenic or biological value. The pipeline connection between the collection/detention tank would be placed above ground adjacent to County Road in an area consisting primarily of introduced annual grasses and other ruderal vegetation above the closed Foothill Landfill. Minor trenching would be required to place the pipeline below grade

where it crosses County Road. A number of planted coast live oak, toyon and olive trees are present in the vicinity of the pipeline, however, because the pipeline has a small diameter and will be placed above ground beneath the tree canopies, it would not require removal of the trees or significantly impact the root zones. Therefore, the project can be found exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15303, 15304, and 15282.

There is no substantial evidence that the proposed project involves unusual circumstances, including future activities, resulting in or which might reasonably result in significant impacts which threaten the environment. The exceptions to the categorical exemptions pursuant to Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines are:

- (a) **Location.** Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located -- a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the project may impact on 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 would be located at the existing SCRTS, a county-operated solid waste management facility and above the closed Foothill Landfill. No environmental resources of hazardous or critical concern are present. Therefore, this exclusion is not applicable.

- (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.

No other storm water management facilities are proposed at the SCRTS site that would contribute to cumulatively significant impacts. Therefore, this exclusion is not applicable.

- (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 project would be constructed at an existing solid waste management facility that has been in operation since 1967. A portion of the SCRTS and adjacent areas are located above the closed Foothill Landfill. There are no unusual circumstances that are present at the site or surrounding area that would result in a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, this exclusion is not applicable.

- (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. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.

The project would be constructed at an existing solid waste management facility that has been in operation since 1967. The facility is located at a county campus consisting of the County Jail, Road Yard, Parks Department maintenance facility, and other county facilities. The pipeline would be located above ground on the Closed Foothill Landfill just east of County Road. Portions of the closed landfill have been restored with native plants and the southern section of the landfill is visible from U.S. 101. The project would not impact the restored areas of the landfill and would not result in the removal of any trees, buildings, rock outcroppings or other scenic resources. In addition, the section of U.S. 101 south of the project site is not designated as a state scenic highway. Therefore, this exclusion is not applicable.

- (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 project site is located on the closed Foothill Landfill above the active waste footprint. The Foothill Landfill was operated as a Class III municipal landfill. The landfill is not listed as a hazardous waste site. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (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.**

The project would be constructed at an existing solid waste management facility that has been in operation since 1967. The site includes areas used for storage of co-mingled recyclables, green waste and mulch, and buildings used for maintenance and weighing activities. The remaining areas consist of moderately vegetated hillsides, administrative buildings and a parking lot. The facilities would be located in existing disturbed areas of the site, including areas partial overlying the waste footprint of the Closed Foothill Landfill. Based on a prior survey conducted at SCRTS, there is cultural resource sensitivity in the general area however no historic resources have been observed in the area of the proposed construction and the disturbance associated with construction is not expected to extend into previously undisturbed soils. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

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Acceptance Date:

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Date Filed by County Clerk: