

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Joddi Leipner, Senior Engineering Environmental Planner,  
Public Works, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division  
(RRWMD) .

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: 081-150-019, -026, -042

Case No.: N/A

Location: Tajiguas Landfill, (14470 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA 93117) (3<sup>rd</sup> Supervisorial District)

Project Title: Professional services contract with SCS Field Services for SCADA and Telemetry Repairs at the Tajiguas Landfill

Project Description: Agreement for professional services with Sterns, Conrad, and Schmidt, Consulting Engineers (SCS Field Services) to provide design and repairs of the supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) and telemetry systems at the Tajiguas Landfill, as directed by the Public Works, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division (RRWMD). The scope of these services includes design of a Cloud SCADA system, repairs to current, and installation of new, telemetry components, wiring and field modification of electrical control systems, and training and service support for RRWMD staff. The purpose of the SCADA system is to remotely monitor and control environmental management systems (EMS) at the Tajiguas landfill and ensure environmental compliance, efficient operation, and safety for RRWMD staff.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Barbara County

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Leslie Wells, Deputy Director

Exempt Status: (Check one)

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

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) and 15308 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment.

Reasons to support exemption findings  
CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 categorically exempts the operation, repair, and maintenance of existing public structures and facilities that involves negligible or no expansion of use. CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment. RRWMD is responsible for the operation and management of the Tajiguas Landfill in Santa Barbara County. The Tajiguas Landfill is subject to compliance with state and federal regulations that contain discharge specifications, water quality protection standards, and provisions intended to protect the environment by mitigating impacts to water quality and air quality. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 and 15308, the proposed contract would provide services to design, repair, install and maintain SCADA and telemetry components to automate operation and monitoring of select Landfill EMS necessary for the protection of the environment. The EMS systems include: leachate and groundwater management systems, potable water system, and landfill gas treatment system. The proposed activities authorized by approval of the contract would repair or replace electrical and telemetry service to existing and permitted EMS. Activities would not enlarge or expand the EMS or permitted Landfill operations. Therefore, the approval of a contract to provide labor services to assist with these permitted activities is categorically exempt from CEQA.

There is no substantial evidence that there are 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 an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

Section 15301 is a Class 1 exemption and Section 15308 is a Class 8 exemption; therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (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 contract would provide support services to existing Landfill EMS facilities and would not expand operations. The contract would not contribute to cumulative impacts. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (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 contract would support design, operation, repair and maintenance of EMS to support the Tajiguas Landfill's compliance with state and federal regulations that contain discharge specifications, water quality protection standards, and provisions intended to protect the environment by mitigating impacts to water quality and air quality. The EMS is located within existing disturbed areas of the Landfill property. Therefore, this exception 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.

U.S. 101 in the vicinity of the Landfill is a state designated scenic highway. However, implementation of services authorized under the SCS contract would involve existing EMS facilities and would not result in the damage to historic buildings, rock outcrops, native vegetation, trees or other scenic resources. No impact to scenic resources would occur; therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (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 services would be provided at the existing, permitted Tajiguas Landfill, a Class III, municipal solid waste disposal facility. The Landfill does not accept hazardous wastes and is not listed as 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.

Services authorized under the SCS contract would involve existing EMS facilities and would not impact historical resources; therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jeanette Gonzales-Knight, Compliance Manager  
Phone #: 805-882-3600

Department/Division Representative: Joddi Leipner, Sr. Engineering Environmental Planner

Date: April 10, 2020

Acceptance Date:

Note: A copy of this form must be posted at P&D 6 days prior to a decision on the project. Upon project approval, this form must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board and posted by the Clerk of the Board for a period of 30 days to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenges.

DATE POSTED AT PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

DATE FILED BY COUNTY CLERK