

ATTACHMENT 2

CEQA Notice of Exemption



2021 CEQA Transmittal Memorandum

County of Santa Barbara - Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

105 E. Anapamu St. Room 407 • Santa Barbara • CA • 93101

(805) 568-2240

Complete this form when filing a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, Environmental Impact Report or Notice of Exemption.

You will need to submit one original for posting plus one copy for the Department of Fish & Wildlife. A scanned copy including the date/time of posting will be emailed to the Lead Agency and Project Applicant. If you would like a return copy, please submit an extra copy along with a pre-addressed, stamped envelope.

Contact Person	Phone		
Lead Agency	Lead Agency Email		
Project Title			
Project Applicant	Email	Phone	
Project Applicant Address	City	State	Zip

DOCUMENT BEING FILED:

Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

2021 Filing Fee \$3,445.25

Previously Paid (**must attach receipt**) \$0.00

No Effect Determination (**must be attached**)..... \$0.00

Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration

2021 Filing Fee \$2,480.25

Previously Paid (**must attach receipt**) \$0.00

No Effect Determination (**must be attached**)..... \$0.00

Notice of Exemption \$0.00

County Administrative Handling Fee (**required for all filings, effective 7/19/18**) \$50.00

TOTAL: _____

PAYMENT METHOD: ALL APPLICABLE FEES MUST BE PAID AT THE TIME OF FILING

Cash Credit Card Check #_____ Journal Entry #_____

Journal Entry

Document Number: JE - 0216215

Document Description: CEQA FILING FEE 003586 License Agreement Explore Ecology at South Coast Shed

Post On: 4/8/2021

Batch ID: 2528568

Created On: 4/2/2021 8:55:36 AM

Processed On:

Created By: Lucero Garcia

Processed By:

References

Audit Trail: Cash Type:

Accounting

Fund	Dept	GL Acct	LI Acct	Debit Amount	Credit Amount	Prog	OUnit	Proj	Act	Area	Equip	Depositor	Description
0001	063	2810	7508	50.00		1250		003586					CEQA FILING FEE, 003586
0001	012	2710	5746		50.00	4020							PROCESSING FEE FOR CEQA FILING, 003586
		Total		<u>50.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>								

Signatures

Signed By	Approval Level	Department/Agency-Fund Group	Signed On	Valid
Lucero Garcia	Fund/Department	063-General Fund	4/2/2021 9:03:24 AM	Y

Project: License Agreement for Explore Ecology at South Coast Watershed Resource Center, Arroyo Burro Beach County Park
APN: 047-092-013 (portion)
Folio: 003586
Agent: SD

CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
FROM: General Services Department, Real Estate Services Division

Based on a preliminary review of the project the following activity 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: 047-092-013 (portion) **Case No.:** Real Estate Services File No. 003586

LOCATION: 2981 ½ Cliff Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93109

PROJECT TITLE: License Agreement for Explore Ecology at the South Coast Watershed Resource Center building in the Arroyo Burro County Park at 2981 ½ Cliff Drive, City of Santa Barbara, County of Santa Barbara, State of California.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed action is to enter into a License Agreement for Explore Ecology's continued non-exclusive use, operation, repair, and maintenance of the South Coast Watershed Resource Center building, a public structure, for an additional period of five (5) years, March 15, 2021 through March 14, 2026, plus an Option to Extend for a period of one (1) additional year.

EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One)

- Ministerial
- Statutory
- Categorical Exemption [Sections 15301 Existing Facilities and 15323 Normal Operation of Facilities for Public Gatherings]
- Emergency Project
- No Possibility of Significant Effect

Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section: 15301 [*Existing Facilities*]

Reasons to support exemption findings: The proposed action is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15301 [*Existing Facilities*] of the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The CEQA Existing Facilities exemption at Section 15301 allows for 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. The proposed action of approving the License Agreement for Explore Ecology's continued non-exclusive use, operation, repair, maintenance of the Watershed Resource Center building located at the Arroyo Burro County Park, which does not involve an expansion of use under the reasonably same parameters as currently exist, therefore, approval of the License Agreement is exempt from CEQA in accordance with Section 15301.

Further, Section 15323 [*Normal Operation of Facilities for Public Gatherings*] exempts from CEQA review "normal operations of existing facilities for public gatherings for which the facilities were designed, where there is a past history of the facility being used for the same or similar kind of purpose." The proposed action is also consistent with SCWRC's historical use as a public gathering location and public education center, and is therefore exempt under CEQA Section 15323, which provides an exemption for "normal operations of existing facilities for public gatherings for which the facilities were designed, where there is a past history of the facility being used for the same or similar kind of purpose." The SCWRC has been used consistently since 2009 to the present as a *public gathering location and public education center*, and the proposed action of the Board is consistent with that historic use, will not increase the use and has a reasonable expectation that the on-going use will not represent a change in the operation of the facility.

With regard to the proposed project, the exceptions to the Existing Facilities categorical exemption that must be considered 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 in all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resources of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.***

The Section 15301 is a Class 1 Categorical Exemption, therefore this exception 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.***

There are no successive projects of the same type in the same place anticipated for this location. There is no cumulative impact and, 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 proposed License Agreement to continue Explore Ecology's current use of this office space will not result in any physical changes or impacts to the environment and therefore will not result in a significant effect on the environment.

(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.

This proposed project is in an existing building. There are no state scenic highways in the project area. 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.

This proposed project is not located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. Therefore, it is not located on a hazardous waste site and 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.

This proposed project does not involve any historical resources. This exception does not apply.

As described above, none of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions contained within Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines apply to this project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Janette D. Pell

Phone: (805) 560-1011

Department/Division Representative: Shauna Dragomir, Real Property Agent III

NOTE: A copy of this document must be posted with the County's Planning and Development Department at least 6 days prior to consideration of the activity by the decision-makers to comply with County CEQA guidelines, and a copy must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board after project approval to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenges.

Distribution: Board of Supervisors

DATE FILED WITH CLERK OF THE BOARD

DocuSigned by:

 Shauna Dragomir

3/30/2021 | 11:05 AM PDT

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Department /Division Representative

Date