

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Santa Barbara County Public Works, 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: 081-150-042 **Case No.:** Not Applicable

Location: Tajiguas Landfill, 14470 Calle Real, Goleta, California 93117

Project Title: Tajiguas Sanitary Landfill Ridgeline Tank Rehabilitation Phase 2

Project Applicant: Santa Barbara County Public Works, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division (RRWMD)

Project Description: The proposed project involves removing and replacing the interior and exterior coating of the Tajiguas Landfill 225,000 gallon Ridgeline Tank No. 3, and exterior coating of 470,000 gallon Ridgeline Tank No. 2. This project is required to extend the service life of the tanks. The tanks store non-potable water that is used by County Operations for dust control in the active areas of the landfill.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Barbara County

Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out Project: Travis Spier, Operations Manager, RRWMD

Exempt Status:

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

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guidelines Section: [cite section number and brief description or title of the exemption] Section 15301 - Existing Facilities

Reasons to support exemption findings: [discuss reasons for the exemption]

The Tajiguas Landfill is permitted under Solid Waste Facility Permit 42-AA-0015 and has been analyzed under CEQA in 01-EIR-05 certified by the Board of Supervisors on August 13, 2002 and several CEQA Guidelines 15162 determinations, 15164 addendums and subsequent EIRs. Use of

infrastructure to support operation of the landfill including water storage is included in those environmental documents. CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1 exemption) 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. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of use.

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 the Ridgeline Tank Rehabilitation Phase 2 project would repair existing water tanks used at the Tajiguas Landfill that provide storage for water from water supply wells, and non-potable water collected by the landfill's groundwater interceptor trench. The tanks are subject to corrosion and damage due to weather and periodic maintenance is required to extend the service life of the tanks. The repair work would not result in any change or expansion of the use. The tanks would be accessed by existing roads and no additional ground disturbance would occur. Staging for the repair activities would occur immediately adjacent to the tanks in previously graded and disturbed areas.

The proposed project does not involve 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 project is within the scope of a Class 1 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.

No other tank repair projects are proposed; 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.

Maintenance activities at the Tajiguas Landfill are covered under a Habitat Conservation Plan and Incidental Take Permit issued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The tank repairs are in upland areas distant from stormwater features where California red-legged

frog and southwestern pond turtles have historically been observed. However, California red-legged frogs can disperse through upland areas (primarily at night, during wet weather). Compensatory mitigation has been required as a part of the HCP/ITP and repair activities would be required to comply with HCP/ITP avoidance and minimization measures. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (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 designated as a Scenic Highway. However, the repair work is on existing tanks and would not result in any new damage to scenic or historic resources. 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 tanks subject to the repair work are located on the Tajiguas Landfill property which includes a Class III municipal solid waste landfill. The tanks are located on ridgelines outside of the permitted waste footprint. 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 involves repairs at existing tank sites. No new ground disturbance is proposed. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jamie Reyes, Civil Engineer

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Department/Division Representative: Joddi  Leipner, Senior Engineering Environmental Planner

Date: June 12, 2023

Acceptance Date: _____

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____