

Attachment D

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: Multiple Case No.: Not Applicable

Location: County-operated facilities (Landfill, Transfer Stations and the Community Hazardous Waste Center) throughout Santa Barbara County (All Supervisorial Districts)

Project Title: Solid Waste Tipping Fees, Collection Rates and Parcel Fees for FY 2021/22 - All Supervisorial Districts

Project Description: Adoption of a resolution setting fee schedules for solid waste handling and disposal fees at County operated facilities and solid waste collection rates in the unincorporated area

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 15273. (a) (1), (2), (4) Rate, Tolls, Fares, and Charges.

Reasons to support exemption findings:

CEQA does not apply to the establishment, modification, structuring, restructuring, or approval of rates, tolls, fares, or other charges by public agencies which the public agency finds are for the purpose of meeting operating expenses, purchasing or leasing of supplies, equipment or material, meeting financial reserve needs and requirements or obtaining funds for capital projects, necessary to maintain service within existing service areas. Tipping fees at County solid waste facilities are set each year based on the actual cost of providing the service the prior fiscal year, as well as complying with the Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division's long-term financial pro forma for funding of capital, regulatory compliance, and closure/post-closure requirements associated with its solid waste management system. Consistent with the requirements of this exemption, the proposed fees are for the purpose of meeting ongoing operational expenses and not for system expansion. In FY 21/22 the mechanism to set the rate charged at the Tajiguas Landfill is established in the regional agreements

between the County and the participating jurisdictions and in the financing documents for the construction and operation of the ReSource Center (formerly the Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project). During FY 21/22, the proposed rate will increase from \$158 to \$164 per ton. As a capital project, the Tajiguas Resource Recovery Project was separately reviewed under CEQA in 12EIR-00000-00002 certified by the Board of Supervisors on July 12, 2016 and Addendum dated August 11, 2017 (revised October 26, 2017), considered by the Board of Supervisors on November 14, 2017. Most other rates for waste handled at County facilities are proposed to increase by 3%-4%.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Leslie Wells, Deputy Director

Phone #: (805) 882-3600

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

Date: May 10, 2021

Acceptance Date:

NOTE: A copy of this document must be posted with the County's Planning & 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.

Date Filed at Planning and Development:

Date Filed by County Clerk:

POSTED

MAY 12 2021

**SB County
Planning and Development**