

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Planning & Development, Energy & Minerals Division

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: 033-120-022

Case No.: n/a

Location: 211 Stearns Wharf, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Projects Title: Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund Grant for Santa Barbara Natural History Museum's Ty Warner Sea Center's California Coastal Immersion Zone exhibit

Projects Description: Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund Grant in the amount of \$30,000 to Santa Barbara Natural History Museum for funding grantee's proposal to upgrade and install new exhibits.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: n/a

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Barbara Natural History Museum

Exempt Status: (Check one)

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

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15301(a)

Reasons to support exemption findings:

CEQA Section 15301(a) exempts interior or exterior alterations of existing facilities, involving such things as partitions, plumbing and electrical conveyances. The project is exempt since there is no increase in square footage of the existing facility and the interior alterations include minor plumbing.

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 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.
- (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.
- (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.
- (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.

- (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.
- (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 exceptions to the categorical exemptions do not apply to this project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Kevin Drude

Phone #: 568-2519

Department/Division Representative: Kathy Pfeifer

Date: September 16, 2014

Acceptance Date: _____

distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Project file (when P&D permit is required)
Date Filed by County Clerk: _____.