

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk

FROM: Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, 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: 059-140-023 and 133-151-087 **Case No.:** NA

Location: South Coast Recycling & Transfer Center Station 4430 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 (2nd Supervisorial District); Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station, 4004 Foxen Canyon Rd, Los Olivos, CA 93441 (3rd Supervisorial District).

Project Title: Agreement with Mattress Recycling Council to Provide Mattress Collection Services and Payments for Units Collected at the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS) and the Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station (SYVRTS)

Project Description: SB 254 Solid waste: used mattresses: recycling and recovery was enacted in 2013 and was created to reduce strain on local governments caused by mattress disposal and encourage mattress recycling. This legislation requires the mattress industry to create and administer a statewide recycling program. This program is funded by a \$10.50 fee collected on the sale of every mattress and box spring. In compliance with this is a state-wide mandated program. RRWMD is proposing to enter into an agreement with the Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) for mattress collection service and payment for mattress units collected at the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS) and Santa Ynez Valley Recycling Station (SYVRTS). The MRC is already operating a collection location at SCRTS, but the agreement would change the method of compensation for the mattresses collected (customers would not be charged for mattress drop off and MRC would compensate RRWMD for the units collected).

The mattress collection by MRC at SYVRTS would represent a new program and would include designation of the SYVRTS as a "Collection Facility", placement of a new mattress collection container (e.g., trailer) in the existing developed area of the facility. Mattresses would be collected during permitted facility operating hours. RRWMD will collect mattresses from the public, inspect them to ensure they meet the recycling requirements, (e.g., not wet, soiled or infected) and consolidate the units into the container. Once the trailer is full, SYVRTS staff will

contact the MRC and schedule a pickup. A driver will come onto SYVRTS property and pick up the trailer and replace it with an empty one. Based on expected volumes, the pickup is expected to occur whenever the trailer is filled, and a replacement trailer is needed. Mattresses are currently collected at SYVRTS as a part of self-haul trash and are taken to the Tajiguas Landfill for disposal. Implementation of the contract and program will allow qualifying mattresses to be recycled into other products and reduce costs, preserve landfill capacity, and reduce environmental impacts associated with landfill disposal. Between 2016 and 2020, 2,094 mattress units were received at SYVRTS (average 419/year) and 20,566 units (average 3428/year) at SCRTS. Both facilities are currently operating within their permitted transfer volumes and traffic levels and though there may be an increase in mattress disposal resulting from designation of the SYVRTS as a designated collection location and associated advertising, the site would continue to operate within its permitted volumes. The program would also help to address illegal dumping of mattresses and associated clean up and environmental costs.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Kaitlyn Haberlin, Program Specialist, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division, Department of Public Works, 805-881-3603.

Exempt Status: (Check one)

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

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 (Existing Facilities), 15308 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment) and 15311 (Accessory Structures).

Reasons to support exemption findings: CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 provides a categorical exemption from CEQA 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 existing or former use. Section 15308 exempts actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment. Section 15311 exempts construction, or placement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities.

Consistent with these categorical exemptions, the proposed project involves contracts and activities to collect mattresses at existing permitted solid waste management facilities to comply with state regulations SB 254 regarding recycling of mattresses. The collection of mattresses for recycling would occur within the existing permitted operational area of the SYVRTS and SCRTS (existing facilities) and at SYVRTS involve the placement of a collection trailer which would be appurtenant to the existing solid waste management activities. Overall, the collection agreement would help to increase the number of mattresses diverted from landfill disposal, reduce illegally dumped mattresses and increase the quantity of mattresses recovered and recycled for other products. Therefore, the agreement can be found to be 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 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.**

Implementation of the contract and associated collection programs would be at existing permitted solid waste management facilities (SCRTS and SYVRTS) in existing operational areas. 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.**

Other operational changes are currently being considered at the SYVRTS. Considering the limited scope of the proposed activities, and the fact that these operation changes would be subject to a separate evaluation under CEQA, cumulative impacts are not expected. 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 contracts involve collection of mattresses at existing solid waste management facilities. As a part of the prior CEQA review and "oak sanctuary" was established over unpaved portion of the SYVRTS. The new trailer would not be located within the sanctuary. No other unusual circumstances are present at the facilities that would result in a significant effect on the environment. 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.**

Foxen Canyon Road, has high scenic qualities and is designated as a "Scenic Corridor in Environmental Resource Management Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Due to the intervening topography, the SYVRTS is not visible from the highway. The new trailer would not be visible from Foxen Canyon Road. In addition, the contract and associated activities would not result in damage to a scenic resource, removal of trees, rock outcropping or similar resource. 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 proposed project is within SYVRTS operational area. SYVRTS is fully permitted. The project site consists of a permitted solid waste management facility and a closed Class III landfill and is not identified 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 new trailer and collection activities would be in existing disturbed and developed areas of the SYVRTS. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Leslie Robinson, Collection and Materials Manager.

Phone #: (805) 882-3615

Department/Division Representative:  Jodi Leipner, Sr. Eng. Env. Planner
Date: October 7, 2022

Acceptance Date:

Date Filed by Clerk of the Board

