

Attachment B

Notice of Exemption
for the Coronado Butterfly Preserve Revitalization Project

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: 079-210-045

Case No.: n/a

Location: Coronado Butterfly Preserve in Goleta

Projects Title: Coronado Butterfly Preserve Revitalization Project

Projects Description: A Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund Grant in the amount of \$23,000 to The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County to fabrication and installation interpretative signs, conduct vegetation and vernal pool/native grassland surveys, and work with the City of Goleta and the Coronado Butterfly Preserve Action Committee.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:

n/a

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ministerial |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Statutory Exemption |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Categorical Exemption |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Emergency Project |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declared Emergency |

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15262 – Feasibility and Planning Studies; 15311(a) – Accessory Structures/On-premise signs

Reasons to support exemption findings:

CEQA Section 15262 exempts, "A project involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the agency, board, or commission has not approved, adopted or funded does not require the preparation of an EIR or Negative Declaration but does require consideration of environmental factors. This section does not apply to the adoption of a plan that will have a legally binding effect on later activities." Funding vegetation and vernal pool/native grass surveys is a project that involves planning for possible future restoration actions.

CEQA Section 15311(a) exempts construction or placement of minor structures accessory to existing... facilities, including On-premise signs. The project is exempt since the interpretative signs are accessories (on-premise signs) to existing facilities.

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.**

The proposed interpretative signs would replace existing signs and would not impact the sensitive environment. 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.

Successive projects of the same type in the same places as the proposed project would not result in significant cumulative impacts. There are no significant incremental or measurable cumulative impacts associated with the proposed interpretative signs. Similar interpretative signs in the surrounding area, developed in conformance with the applicable ordinance standards, would not result in a cumulatively significant impact. 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.

There are no unusual circumstances associated with the proposed interpretative signs where there is a reasonable possibility that the signs would have a significant effect on the environment. The interpretative signs would replace existing signs. 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.

This project will not result in any damage to scenic highways. 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 project is not located on sites included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. 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 proposed project would not result in any substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Kevin Drude

Phone #: 568-2519

Department/Division Representative: Kathy Pfeifer

Date: May 14, 2015

Acceptance Date: _____

distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Project file (when P&D permit is required)

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____