

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 6/29/05  
**Department Name:** P&D  
**Department No.:** 053  
**Agenda Date:** 7/12/05  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:** n/a (10 minute staff presentation on 8/2/05; 30 minute total)  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Document File Name:** G:\GROUP\P&D\PIT\PIT II\FOCUSED 15 ISSUES\AG PERMIT PROCESS\NRCS FINALS\NRCS-BOARD LETTER SET HEARING\_REVISIED.DOC

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Dianne Meester, Assistant Director  
Planning and Development

**STAFF CONTACT:** Anne Almy, Supervising Planner (568-2053)  
Alex Tuttle, Planner III (884-6844)

**SUBJECT:** Set Hearing for Chapter 14 Text Amendments  
Case Number 05ORD-00000-00009

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## Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors set hearing to consider adoption of Chapter 14 ordinance amendments applicable County-wide to exempt Federal Cost Share projects, approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service with a finding of no significant impact under the National Environmental Policy Act and developed pursuant to the National Handbook Of Conservation Practices, from Santa Barbara County grading and land use permits. **SET HEARING FOR AUGUST 2, 2005 (ESTIMATED TIME 30 MINUTES).**

Your Board's action on August 2, 2005 should include the following:

1. Adopt 05-ORD-00000-00009 to amend Chapter 14 of the Santa Barbara County Code; and
2. Accept the Exemption pursuant to Section 15061(b) of the State Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act.

## Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 1. An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community.

## **Executive Summary and Discussion:**

The proposed amendments to sections 14-6(a) and 14-8(c)(8) of the Grading Ordinance exempt from the requirement to obtain a grading permit for certain Federal Cost Share projects, sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). These include, but are not limited to, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). These programs are developed pursuant to the National Handbook of Conservation Practices consistent with the mandated nine-step planning process and approved by NRCS with a finding of no significant impact under the National Environmental Policy Act. Accordingly, they are projects which do not have the potential to result in significant environmental impacts or damage and, therefore, no grading permit would be required for that reason. A proposed amendment to Section 14-10 of the Grading Ordinance would exempt such projects from requiring a land use permit when a grading permit is required for any reason other than having the potential to result in significant environmental impacts or damage.

The proposed ordinance amendment was developed under the PIT II Agricultural Permit Streamlining effort through coordination between County and National Resource Conservation Service staff, as well as representatives from the public. A goal of the amendment is to eliminate duplicative agency permitting and streamline the local permit process as it relates to agriculture. Anticipated public benefits will be further explained in the staff report docketed for the departmental hearing.

## **Mandates and Service Levels:**

Amending Chapter 14 is a legislative act under the jurisdiction of the BOS.

## **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Funding for the preparation of this report was provided in the adopted 04/05 fiscal year budget in the Planning Support Services, Permitting and Compliance, and the General Plan Elements programs on pages D-284, D-286 and D-290. It is anticipated that a minor reduction in permit work and permit revenues will result from these changes.

## **Special Instructions:**

Clerk of the Board to place a legal ad in the Santa Barbara News Press 10 days prior to the Board hearing.

**Concurrence:** County Counsel

Attachments: Draft Ordinance No. 05ORD-00000-00009  
Draft CEQA Notice of Exemption