

**ATTACHMENT C
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jacquelynn Ybarra, Supervising Planner, Energy Minerals & Compliance 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: 081-130-070

Case No.: 24DRP-00001

Location: 17100 Calle Mariposa Reina, Gaviota CA

Project Title: Agreement for Services with MRS Environmental, Inc., for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Decommissioning of the Gaviota Onshore Facilities and Pipelines within Santa Barbara County, Case No. 24DRP-00001

Project Applicant: Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas

Project Description: Approve and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with MRS Environmental Inc., for a total contract amount not to exceed \$254,056 for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Decommissioning of the Gaviota Onshore Facilities and Pipelines within Santa Barbara County, Case No. 24DRP-00001.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara, Planning and Development Department

Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out Project: Freeport-McMoRan Oil and Gas

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency
- Not a Project

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guidelines Section: 15378(b)(5); the proposed action does not constitute a project as defined in CEQA.

Reasons to support exemption findings: The Agreement for Services is exempt from environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), as the proposed actions do not constitute a “project” as defined in CEQA. CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) specifically exempts “organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment” from this definition. The approval and authorization of the Agreement for Services of an Independent Contractor to prepare an Environmental Impact Report is an administrative action that does not involve any physical changes to the environment. Therefore, no environmental review is required.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jacquelynn Ybarra, Supervising Planner, Energy Mineral & Compliance Division

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Department/Division Representative:



Errin Briggs, Deputy Director, Energy Mineral & Compliance Division

Date: June 9, 2026

Acceptance Date: _____

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____