

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:** Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Community Services Department

Based on a preliminary review of the project the following activity 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(s):** N/A **Case No.:** N/A

**Location:** Countywide

**Project Title:** Amendments to Chapter 26 of the County Code

**Project Description:** The recommended actions will provide needed updates to Chapter 26 of the County Code. The proposed changes provide clarification regarding enforcement ability on a variety of issues that include dogs off leash, boating safety, and Department title changes.

The proposed changes to Chapter 26 will amend the Department title from "Parks Department" to the "Community Services Department." It will change the staff titles throughout the document from "Parks" to "Community Services," which is consistent with the new Departmental restructuring. In addition, language has been added to Chapter 26, which ensures that dogs must be leashed unless in designated off-leash areas. The proposed changes also include boating and safety enforcement rules and regulations, which include safety equipment, vessel operation and vessel sea worthiness. These additions are consistent with California State Boating Laws and are required in order for County staff to ensure the safety of visitors.

**Exempt Status:** (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Not a Project [§15378(a) and §15061(b)(3)]

**Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section:** [§15378(a) and §15061 (b)(3)]

**Reasons to support exemption findings** (attach additional material, if necessary):

The proposed action has no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, therefore as defined under CEQA 15378(a) the proposed action is not a project.

### 15061. REVIEW FOR EXEMPTION

(a) Once a lead agency has determined that an activity is a project subject to CEQA, a lead agency shall determine whether the project is exempt from CEQA.

(b) A project is exempt from CEQA if:

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(3) The activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.

**§15378. PROJECT**

(a) "Project" means the whole of an action, which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, ... .

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Juan M. Beltranena

2/10/12

Department/Division Representative

Date

Note: A copy must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board after project approval and posted by the Clerk of the Board for a period of 30 days to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenges.

Distribution: Richard Corral  
Project file (when P&D permit is required)

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Date File of Counter Clerk

**15061. REVIEW FOR EXEMPTION**

(a) Once a lead agency has determined that an activity is a project subject to CEQA, a lead agency shall determine whether the project is exempt from CEQA.

(b) A project is exempt from CEQA if:

(1) The project is exempt by statute (see, e.g. Article 18, commencing with Section 15260).

(2) The project is exempt pursuant to a categorical exemption (see Article 19, commencing with Section 15300) and the application of that categorical exemption is not barred by one of the exceptions set forth in Section 15300.2.

(3) The activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.

(4) The project will be rejected or disapproved by a public agency. (See Section 15270(b)).

(5) The project is exempt pursuant to the provisions of Article 12.5 of this Chapter.

(c) Each public agency should include in its implementing procedures a listing of the projects often handled by the agency that the agency has determined to be exempt. This listing should be used in preliminary review.

(d) After determining that a project is exempt, the agency may prepare a Notice of Exemption as provided in Section 15062. Although the notice may be kept with the project application at this time, the notice shall not be filed with the Office of Planning and Research or the county clerk until the project has been approved.

(e) When a non-elected official or decisionmaking body of a local lead agency decides that a project is exempt from CEQA, and the public agency approves or determines to carry out the project, the decision that the project is exempt may be appealed to the local lead agency's elected decisionmaking body, if one exists. A local lead agency may establish procedures governing such appeals.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code; Reference: Sections 21080(b), 21080.9, 21080.10, 21084, 21108(b), 21151, 21152(b), and 21159.21, Public Resources Code; *No Oil, Inc. v. City of Los Angeles* (1974) 13 Cal. 3d 68.

**15378. PROJECT**

(a) "Project" means the whole of an action, which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and that is any of the following:

(1) An activity directly undertaken by any public agency including but not limited to public works construction and related activities clearing or grading of land, improvements to existing public structures, enactment and amendment of zoning ordinances, and the adoption and amendment of local General Plans or elements thereof pursuant to Government Code Sections 65100–65700.

(2) An activity undertaken by a person which is supported in whole or in part through public agency contacts, grants, subsidies, loans, or other forms of assistance from one or more public agencies.

(3) An activity involving the issuance to a person of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use by one or more public agencies.

(b) Project does not include:

(1) Proposals for legislation to be enacted by the State Legislature;

(2) Continuing administrative or maintenance activities, such as purchases for supplies, personnel-related actions, general policy and procedure making (except as they are applied to specific instances covered above);

(3) The submittal of proposals to a vote of the people of the state or of a particular community that does not involve a public agency sponsored initiative. (*Stein v. City of Santa Monica* (1980) 110 Cal.App.3d 458; *Friends of Sierra Madre v. City of Sierra Madre* (2001) 25 Cal.4th 165);

(4) The creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

(5) Organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

(c) The term “project” refers to the activity which is being approved and which may be subject to several discretionary approvals by governmental agencies. The term “project” does not mean each separate governmental approval.

(d) Where the Lead Agency could describe the project as either the adoption of a particular regulation under subdivision (a)(1) or as a development proposal which will be subject to several governmental approvals under subdivision (a)(2) or (a)(3), the Lead Agency shall describe the project as the development proposal for the purpose of environmental analysis. This approach will implement the Lead Agency principle as described in Article 4.

**Note:** Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code; Reference: Section 21065, Public Resources Code; *Kaufman and Broad-South Bay, Inc. v. Morgan Hill Unified School District* (1992) 9 Cal.App.4th 464; *Fullerton Joint Union High School District v. State Board of Education* (1982) 32 Cal.3d 779; *Simi Valley Recreation and Park District v. Local Agency Formation Commission of Ventura County* (1975) 51 Cal.App.3d 648; and *Communities for a Better*