

Attachment B

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: June Pujo, Supervising Planner, Planning & Development

The activity identified below is not the approval of a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Location: Santa Barbara County

Project Title: Recommended Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Development Process

Project No: BOS File No. 11-00502

Project Description: The activity is the Board of Supervisors' approval of a recommended County-wide process for the creation, review, approval, and monitoring of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). The purpose is to assist communities in creating consistent CWPPs that can be predictably evaluated and approved.

CWPPs are authorized and defined in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003. The HFRA provides the potential for prioritized federal funding in the form of Fire Safe Council grants for hazardous fuel reduction projects on non-federal land. CWPPs are created through a collaborative community process that brings together interested parties to identify potential hazardous fuel reduction treatments, recommend best practices for fuel reduction treatments, and recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce ignitability of homes or other structures in the wildland urban interface.

The Recommended CWPP Development Process includes preparation of a template for communities to use in developing their own CWPPs. Steps in developing a CWPP include convening decision makers, involving federal, state and local agencies, engaging interested parties, and developing community risk assessments and priorities. A final CWPP is signed by the applicable local government representative, the applicable fire department representative and the Unit Chief of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: County of Santa Barbara

Exempt Status: (Check one)

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

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15352, 15378 (b)(2)

Reasons to support exemption findings: Approval of the Recommended Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Development Process provides a template of recommended procedures for developing CWPPs. Approval of the Recommended Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Development Process does not:

- Commit the County to carrying out, funding, or issuing a permit for any specific hazardous fuel reduction;
- Require implementation of any recommendation within any resulting CWPP; or
- Remove any permit requirement, environmental review requirement, or other legal requirement applicable to hazardous fuel reduction on either private lands or public lands.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dennis Bozanich Phone #: 568-3107

Department/Division Representative (CEQA):  Date: 7-19-11

Acceptance Date: _____

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Project file

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____