

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

**FROM:** Community Services Department

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(s):** N/A **Case No.:** N/A

**Location:** Santa Barbary County

**Project Title:** Center for Sustainable Energy Consulting Agreement

**Project Description:** emPower Central Coast (emPower) is the County's voluntary building efficiency program designed to lower energy use across the region and stimulate the economy. The Center for Sustainable Energy Consulting Agreement will provide a new source of funding to allow the emPower program to collaborate with a new State-sponsored energy efficiency financing program available to residential and non-residential consumers. This opportunity is in line with emPower's goals to stimulate the local economy and reduce energy consumption by helping private property owners complete energy improvements. The Agreement will allow emPower to create more visibility for existing local lending partners and contractors, while making financing options more accessible to consumers that emPower is not currently funded to serve (i.e. multi-family, non-residential, and certain types of single-family projects).

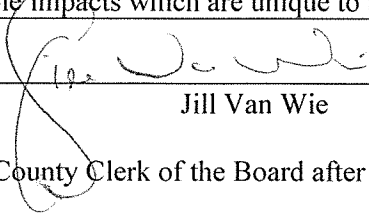
**Exempt Status:** (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- No Possibility of Significant Effect [§15061(b,3)]
- Other

**Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section:** 15378(b)(4); the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project are not a project.

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

The consulting agreement does not result in direct physical impacts to the environment. When individual projects and programs contained within these documents proceed to implementation, they may be subject to environmental review under NEPA and/or CEQA for possible impacts which are unique to that particular project and/or program.

Department/Division Representative  Date 8/25/16  
Jill Van Wie

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.

Copies to: File

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