

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Florence Trotter-Cadena, Planner

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.

APNs: 113-080-025

Case No.: 11AGP-00000-00025

Location: located at the intersection of Betteravia and Simas Roads, in the Santa Maria area

Project Title: Acquistapace/Adam Agricultural Preserve

Project Description: Replacement Agricultural Preserve Contract

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: James Acquistapace

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- ☐ Ministerial
- ☐ Statutory
- ☐ No Possibility of Significant Effect [§15061(b,3)]
- ☐ Emergency Project
- ☐ Categorical Exemption
- ☒ XX Not A Project Exemption (§15378)

Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section: 15378 [Not A Project]

This section exempts the establishment of agricultural preserves under the Williamson Act. The creation of a replacement contract for an Agricultural Preserve will not cause a significant environmental impact to the surrounding area. The project site has adequate water, and other facilities. The project is currently used for the cultivation of row crops. The project will not increase the demand on existing services, will not result in the loss of any existing native vegetation, will not require extensive grading or land alteration, nor will it impact any biological, archaeological or other sensitive environmental resources.

There is no substantial evidence that there are unusual circumstances (including future activities) resulting in (or which might reasonably result in) significant impacts which threaten the environment. The exceptions to the categorical exemptions pursuant to Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines are:

- (a) **Location.** Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located -- a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.
- (b) **Cumulative Impact.** All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

- (c) **Significant Effect.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.
- (d) **Scenic Highways.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.
- (e) **Hazardous Waste Sites.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.
- (f) **Historical Resources.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

These exceptions do not apply as we are using Section 15378 (b)(5) Not A Project which is not a categorical exemption.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Florence Trotter-Cadena

Phone #: 934-6253

Department/Division Representative: _____ Date: _____

Acceptance Date: _____

Note: A copy of this form must be posted at P&D 6 days prior to a decision on the project. Upon project approval, this form must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board 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: Hearing Support Staff
 Project file (when P&D permit is required)