

ATTACHMENT B

CEQA Notice of Exemption

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Barney Melekian, Assistant County Executive Officer
Kelly Hubbard, Director Office of Emergency Management

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: n/a **Case No.:** n/a

Location: Santa Barbara County, all Districts

Project Title: Ordinance Adopting Remedies for Violations of County Health Officer Orders Pertaining to COVID-19

Project Applicant: n/a

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

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Not A Project

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c) exempts emergency projects that consist of specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) exempts activities that are covered by the common sense exemption 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.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) provides that "Projects" subject to CEQA do not include organization or administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Reasons to support exemption findings:

This Ordinance would adopt County Health Officer Orders pertaining to Coronavirus Disease 19 ("COVID-19") as County law. It would further provide that any violation of the Ordinance could result in an infraction citation or an administrative fine. The fine would be one hundred dollars for a first violation, two hundred dollars for the second violation, and five hundred dollars for each additional violation within one year. The Ordinance would remain in effect until the Santa Barbara County local health emergency proclamation is terminated, unless terminated earlier by the Board.

This Ordinance is necessary to protect the health and well-being of the residents of Santa Barbara County during an emergency. On March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency in California due to the threat of COVID-19. On March 12, 2020, the Santa Barbara County Public Health Officer declared a public health emergency in Santa Barbara County due to COVID-19.

To respond to this emergency, on March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 directing, with certain exceptions, that all individuals living in California stay at home or at their place of residence. Additionally, the County Public Health Officer has issued orders prohibiting gatherings and requiring face coverings in certain enumerated high-risk situations absent an exception. Nonetheless, community spread is still occurring throughout the County and an enforcement mechanism is necessary to supplement that provided by State law to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The Ordinance will not result in significant effects on or direct or indirect changes in the environment.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Barney Melekian

Phone #: (805) 568-3400

Date: October 20, 2020

Acceptance Date: _____

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____.