

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Public Health 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: COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Project Title: URGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 34A OF THE COUNTY CODE

Project Description: URGENCY ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 34A OF COUNTY CODE IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT PROCESS CHANGES FOR WATER WELL PERMITTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH CALIFORNIA EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Barbara

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

Exempt Status: (Check One)

Ministerial Statutory Categorical Exemption Emergency Project

No Possibility of Significant Effect [Sec 15061(b)(3)].

Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section:

CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3), 15269(c), 15307, and 15378(b)(5)

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

Adoption of Urgency Ordinance amending Chapter 34A is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review per CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c), 15061(b)(3), 15378(b)(5) and 15307 as it is a specific action to mitigate an emergency taken by a regulatory agency for the protection of natural resources to enhance procedures and findings for protection of water resources and does not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

This urgency ordinance amends Chapter 34A of the County Code in order to implement process changes for water well permitting in accordance with the Governor’s Drought Emergency Executive Order N-7-22 issued on March 28, 2022 and which took immediate effect. The urgency ordinance does not relieve a water well applicant’s obligation to comply Chapter 34A, California Water Well Standards, or with any sustainable groundwater management program or basin adjudication as established under the authority of the State of California or its Courts. Both the State and County have declared emergencies based on drought conditions.

The exceptions for location, cumulative impact, significant effect, scenic highways, hazardous waste sites, and historical resources, to categorical exemptions contained in Section 15300.2 are not applicable to this action.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD
Director / Public Health Department
(805) 681- 5100

Date

NOTE: A copy must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board after project approval to begin a 35-day statute of limitation on legal challenges.

Date Filed with the County Clerk