

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Gary Kaiser, Senior Planner *GARY*

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: 128-085-034

Case No.: 12GOV-00000-00005

Location: 511 Lakeside Parkway (Betteravia Government Center)

Project Title: Building 'D' Addition

Project Description:

The County of Santa Barbara proposes to construct a +/- 2,000 square-foot addition onto Building "D" of the Betteravia Government Center. This is the single-story building where Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors hearings are held. The addition would include a new hearing room lobby that is separated from, and less disruptive to, other offices within the building. The addition would also include new ADA compliant restrooms. The addition would not constitute an expansion or intensification of use; rather, it would better accommodate existing uses and reduce the extent to which those uses conflict with one another.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: County General Services Department

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section:

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1)

Reasons to support exemption findings:

The project is Categorically Exempt from the requirements of CEQA. The Class 1 Categorical Exemption applies to "the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or

topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination." This exemption includes minor additions onto existing structures in areas that are not environmentally sensitive.

There is no substantial evidence that the proposed project involves 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.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Gary Kaiser, Senior Planner (CEQA Compliance)

Phone #: (805) 934-6259 Department/Division Representative: John Green, Project Manager

Acceptance Date: March 2, 2012

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____.