

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

**FROM:** Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division (RRWMD)

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:** 059-140-023      **Case No.:** NA

**Location:** South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station 4430 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA 93110 approximately 2,200 feet northwest of the intersection of County Road and Calle Real in the Goleta area of Santa Barbara County, 2<sup>nd</sup> Supervisorial District.

**Project Title:** South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station Tunnel Repair Project; County Project 828367

**Project Description:** RRWMD is proposing to conduct repair and maintenance of a tunnel at the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station (project). The South Coast Recycling & Transfer Station moves waste into transfer trucks daily (except Sunday and holidays) by employing heavy equipment to push refuse on the concrete operating pad into semi-trailers parked in a tunnel below the pad. Structural metal plates are affixed to the concrete pad alongside the tunnel where the heavy equipment bucket pushes the refuse. Over years, the existing metal plates become damaged due to constant wear from the equipment bucket, and occasionally rip when a bucket tooth is snagged. Incidents of metal plate tears represent a risk to worker safety. The proposed project includes removal and replacement of approximately 83 linear feet of structural steel metal plates on the concrete pad alongside the waste transfer trailer tunnel. Accessory tunnel repairs include: patch and seal concrete bulkheads, replace rubber containment curtain and hanging brackets, and add protective rounded metal deflector on the tunnel underside edge. Project implementation includes the following administrative actions: authority to advertise and request bids, contract award, and a statement of final quantities/notice of completion after completion of the construction activities.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Travis Spier, Operations Manager, RRWMD

**Exempt Status:** (Check one)

- Ministerial  
 Statutory Exemption  
 Categorical Exemption  
 Emergency Project  
 Declared Emergency

**Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section:** CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 Existing Facilities.

**Reasons to support exemption findings:** CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 consists of the consists of 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.

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, the project consists of the repair and maintenance of an existing tunnel used in waste management activities at the County-owned and operated South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station. The repairs and maintenance are necessary to support existing operations and to provide a safe working environment. The South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station is permitted to operate as a Large Volume Transfer/Processing Facility and Chipping and Grinding Facility through a permit (42-AA-0014) issued from through a permit issued by Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services, the Local Enforcement Agency for CalRecycle. The repairs would support, but not expand the permitted uses; therefore, the project can be found to be categorically exempt from CEQA.

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.**

CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 is a Class 1 exemption, therefore this exception is not applicable.

- (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.

The project involves repair of a tunnel used for solid waste management at an existing permitted facility. There are no other identified vegetation management projects which would contribute to cumulative impacts. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (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.

The project involves repair of a tunnel used for solid waste management at an existing permitted facility in an existing disturbed and developed area. There are no unusual circumstances with respect to the activity or the location of the activity that would result in a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (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.

The project does not involve a scenic highway or a project which may result in damage to a scenic resource, removal of trees, rock outcropping or similar resource. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (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.

The proposed project is located at the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station a portion of which lies within the disposal footprint of the Foothill Closed Landfill. The landfill operated as a municipal solid waste facility from the 1940s to approximately 1966. The project site is not identified as a hazardous waste site. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (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.

The project involves repair of a tunnel used for solid waste management at an existing permitted facility in an existing disturbed and developed area; no historical resources would be impacted. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Nina Danza, P.E., Civil Engineer  
Phone #: (805) 882-3622

**Department/Division Representative:**  Joddi Leipner, Sr. Eng. Env. Planner  
Date: November 27, 2019

**Acceptance Date:** January 28, 2020

Note: A copy of this form must be posted at P&D 6 days prior to a decision on the project. Upon approval, this form must be filed with the 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.

Date Posted At Planning & Development

Date Filed by Clerk of the Board

**POSTED**  
**DEC 11 2019**  
SB County  
Planning and Development

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