

**ATTACHMENT B**

CEQA Notice of Exemption

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Michael C. Ghizzoni, County Counsel

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: Urgency Ordinance to Delegate and Authorize the County Road Commissioner to Post Temporary No Parking Restrictions on Public Roads and Highways During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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 commonsense 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 Urgency Ordinance would delegate and authorize the County Road Commissioner to post temporary no parking restrictions, including parking

time limits, on County public roads and highways to prevent the unhealthy over-crowding of parking areas, during the COVID-19 pandemic and until the proclaimed Santa Barbara County Local Emergency is terminated.

The Board finds that it is necessary to delegate and authorize the County Road Commissioner to post temporary “No Parking” restrictions on affected roads and highways in the unincorporated County to prevent the unhealthy over-crowding of parking areas as a result of “lack of social distancing” of at least six feet. This is necessary to preserve social distancing requirements and slow the spread of the virus.

In making the determination to temporarily restrict or limit parking, including parking time limits, on portions of any county road or highway, the County Road Commissioner shall:

1. Consider the days, times, and locations most impacted by large crowds;
2. Evaluate how temporary parking restrictions may impact nearby neighborhoods;
3. Consult with and receive input from the California Highway Patrol and/or the Santa Barbara County Sheriff; and,
4. Weigh any potential impact to coastal access against the necessity to preserve social distancing requirements and slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus during the proclaimed Local Emergency from the COVID-19 virus.

The posting and contents of the signage shall be made in accordance with County Code Section 28-123. The County Road Commissioner shall also periodically provide a report to the Board of Supervisors regarding the number and type of temporary parking restrictions implemented and enforcement. These temporary parking restrictions will be enforceable under California law, including but not limited to the California Vehicle Code and County Code.

This Urgency Ordinance is based on evidence of increasing transmission of COVID-19 both within the County and worldwide, scientific evidence regarding the most effective approach to slow transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, as well as best practices as currently known and available to protect the public from the risk of spread of or exposure to COVID-19. This Ordinance is intended to reduce the likelihood of exposure to COVID-19, thereby slowing the spread of COVID-19 in the County of Santa Barbara.

This Ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety and in accordance with Government Code sections 8634 and 25123, these conditions warrant and necessitate that the County adopt this Urgency Ordinance to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents in the unincorporated area of Santa Barbara County. The Urgency Ordinance will not result in significant effects on or direct or indirect changes in the environment.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Michelle Montez Phone #: 805-568-2950

Date: May 15, 2020

Acceptance Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Filed by County Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_.