



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Date 08/29/2025

Case Number

Dept/Div/Year/Project#/NOE#

RECEIVED

TO: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

FROM LEAD AGENCY: GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT 2025 SEP 30 A 9:18

Clerk of the Board Filing Date

Staff Contact: Brandon Kaysen

Phone: (805) 621-1135

Fax:

Address: 260 N. San Antonio Rd.

Division: Capital, Energy and Facilities

Email: bkaysen@countyofsb.org

City: Santa Barbara

State: CA Zip: 93105

PROJECT INFORMATION:Does this project involve a state/federal agency? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Project Name: Northern Branch Jail - Solar SSA

District: Fifth Supervisorial District

Address: 2301 Black Road

City/Area: Santa Maria

Zip Code: 93455

APN: 113-210-024

Project #: 001056

NOE #: 1

Funding/POPPA:

Project Description: (Section §15124 of the CEQA Guidelines defines the types of information that should be included in a project description)

The County is pursuing the installation of solar photovoltaics systems via a Solar Services Agreement (SSA) at the Northern Branch Jail (113-210-024).

Determine that the renewable energy project is statutorily exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21080.35 (installing solar systems on existing roofs and existing parking lots), and it is further categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA per sections 15301 (minor alterations to existing facilities) and 15303 (limited construction of small facilities) and 15304 (minor alterations of land) of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations and a Notice of Exemption was filed on that basis, and that the recommended actions are within the scope of that Notice of Exemption.

DETERMINATION: (select category)

- ☐ Not a Project (§15378)
- ☐ Ministerial Exemption (§15268)
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (§15260)
- ☒ Categorical Exemption (§15354 [15302-33])
- ☐ CatEx - Existing Facilities (§15300)
- ☐ Emergency Project Exemption (§15359)

Scope of Exemption:

Categorical Exemptions are made up of classes of projects that generally are considered not to have potential impacts on the environment. Categorical exemptions are identified and defined in the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR Section 15300-15331). Categorical exemptions are not allowed to be used for projects that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, except when the Department of the Interior Standards are applied. Therefore, lead agencies must first determine if the project has the potential to impact historical resources and if those impacts could be adverse prior to determining if a categorical exemption may be utilized for any given project.

Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14 §15300

PRIMARY reason for the Determination: 15304 Minor Alterations to Land

FINDING TO SUPPORT DETERMINATION: (attach additional material, only if necessary)

Based upon the project description above, the General Services Department (as Lead Agency) has determined the project (Northern Branch Jail - Solar SSA) is within the scope of §15304 consistent with subsection (a,b,c,d,e or f) minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes, which include but are not limited to: (a) Grading on land with a slope of less than 10 percent, except that grading shall not be exempt in a waterway, in any wetland, in an officially designated (by federal, state, or local government action) scenic area, or in officially mapped areas of severe geologic hazard or within an official Seismic Hazard Zone, as delineated by the State Geologist. (b) New gardening or landscaping, including the replacement of existing conventional landscaping with water efficient or fire resistant landscaping. (c) Filling of earth into previously excavated land with material compatible with the natural features of the site. (d) Minor alterations in land, water, and vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas or fish production facilities which result in improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife resources or greater fish production. (e) Minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment, including carnivals, sales of Christmas trees, etc. (f) Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored. (g) Maintenance dredging where the spoil is deposited in a spoil area authorized by all applicable state and federal regulatory agencies. (h) The creation of bicycle lanes on existing rights-of-way. (i) Fuel management activities within 30 feet of structures to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation, provided that the activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. This exemption shall apply to fuel management activities within 100 feet of a structure if the public agency having fire protection responsibility for the area has determined that 100 feet of fuel clearance is required due to extra hazardous fire conditions. Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 14, §15304

Department/Division
Representative

Brandon Kaysen

Digitally signed by Brandon Kaysen
Date: 2025.08.14 14:11:03 -07'00'

(print name: Brandon Kaysen)

) Date 8/14/25

DISTRIBUTION:

NOTE: A copy must be posted at least 6 days prior to consideration of the activity by the decision-makers to comply with County CEQA guidelines and a copy must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board after project approval to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenges.



2024 CEQA Transmittal Memorandum

County of Santa Barbara - Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

105 E. Anapamu St. Room 407 • Santa Barbara • CA • 93101

(805) 568-2240

Complete this form when filing a Notice of Determination (Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, Environmental Impact Report) or Notice of Exemption.

A scanned copy of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Receipt, Transmittal Memorandum and the CEQA filing including the date/time of posting will be emailed to the Lead Agency and Project Applicant. If you would like a return copy, please submit an extra copy along with a pre-addressed, stamped envelope.

Contact Person Brandon Kaysen	Phone 805-621-1135		
Lead Agency General Services Department (County of Santa Barbara)	Lead Agency Email countyarchitect@countyofsb.org		
Project Title Northern Branch Jail - Solar SSA			
Project Applicant Brandon Kaysen	Email bkaysen@countyofsb.org	Phone 805-621-1135	
Project Applicant Address 260 N. San Antonio Rd.	City Santa Barbara	State CA	Zip 93110

DOCUMENT BEING FILED:

- ☐ Notice of Determination - Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
☐ 2024 Filing Fee\$4,051.25
☐ Previously Paid (must attach receipt) \$0.00
☐ No Effect Determination (must be attached)..... \$0.00
Environmental Filing Fees will be collected *only* for projects that are approved. The Applicant must attest to the following:
☐ This project has been approved. Date of Approval: Click or tap to enter a date.

- ☐ Notice of Determination - Negative Declaration (ND) or Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).....
☐ 2024 Filing Fee \$2,916.75
☐ Previously Paid (must attach receipt) \$0.00
☐ No Effect Determination (must be attached)..... \$0.00
Environmental Filing Fees will be collected *only* for projects that are approved. The Applicant must attest to the following:
☐ This project has been approved. Date of Approval: Click or tap to enter a date.

☒ Notice of Exemption.....\$0.00

☒ County Administrative Handling Fee (required for all filings, effective 7/19/18)\$50.00

TOTAL: \$ 50.00

PAYMENT METHOD: ALL APPLICABLE FEES MUST BE PAID AT THE TIME OF FILING

- ☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check # _____ ☒ Journal Entry # **1065234**
In person only In FIN send to 'COB CEQA' in CEO Dept



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2025 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/25) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print

StartOver

Save

RECEIPT NUMBER:

42 — 09/30/2025 — 183

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY General Services Department - County of Santa Barbara	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL countyarchitect@countyofsb.org	DATE 09/30/2025
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING Santa Barbara	DOCUMENT NUMBER	

PROJECT TITLE

Northern Branch Jail - Solar SSA

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME Brandon Kaysen	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL bkaysen@countyofsb.org	PHONE NUMBER (805) 621-1135
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 260 N. San Antonio Rd.	CITY Santa Barbara	STATE CA
	ZIP CODE 93110	

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

☒ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$4,123.50	\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,968.75	\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,401.75	\$ 0.00

☒ Exempt from fee

☒ Notice of Exemption (attach)

☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)

☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

<input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$ 0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee		\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☒ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50.00

SIGNATURE

X *Katherine Douglas*

AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE

Katherine Douglas, Deputy Clerk