

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: General Services Department, Support Division

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(s): 149-040-006, -007, -008, -009 Case No.: GSD-101519-8751-001

Location: New Cuyama, SE corner of SR 166/Newsome St. Intersection, First Supervisorial District

Project Title: New Cuyama Fire Station 41 Replacement

Project Description: This project will replace the existing Fire Station 41, which consists of an Apparatus Bay and modular housing units currently used as the dormitory/living quarters for FS-41 Fire staff, with a new inclusive Fire Station Building.

The new Fire Station Building will accommodate each currently existing use within an approximately 8,000 square foot (sq.ft.) structure, consisting of a: 1) Three-Bay Apparatus room; 2) Dormitory; and 3) Living Quarters. The new facility will be comprised of the proposed structure, pedestrian courtyard, and pavement, including 15 parking spaces, and a 100-foot communications tower, entirely located within an approximately 31,000 sq.ft. (130' x 240') development envelope.

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- No Possibility of Significant Effect [§15061(b,3)]

Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section: 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction. Class 2 consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced, including but not limited to... (b) Replacement of a commercial structure with a new structure of substantially the same size, purpose, and capacity.

Reasons to support exemption findings (attach additional material, if necessary): The project consists of replacement of existing structures with a new structure on the same site with the same purpose and capacity as the structures replaced. The project will provide a new, state of the art Fire Station in the community of New Cuyama, consolidating all essential fire station functions in one structure, as opposed to the current sub-optimal configuration.

Existing Fire Station 41 is comprised of approximately 7,100 sq.ft. of structural development within an approximately 20,000 sq.ft. (100' x 200') development footprint. Structural development is comprised of seven buildings, all within 100' of each other, as follows: 1) Main Fire Station (3,120 sq.ft.); 2) Single Wide Sleeping Dorm (1,080 sq.ft.); 3) Duplex Residence (943 sq.ft.); 4) 2nd Duplex Residence (943 sq. ft.); 5) Carport (450 sq. ft.); 6) 2nd Carport (450 sq. ft.); and 7) Storage Shed (126 sq. ft.). There is also an existing 50-foot communications tower. The 2nd Duplex Residence (943 sq. ft.) will not be demolished and will remain. An exercise room (1,200 sq.ft.), located approximately 300' from the

project site, provides dedicated, enclosed exercise space as an alternative to the use of makeshift space at the main facility.

The consolidation of functions into the new fire station increases both operational efficiency and staff convenience. The project has no potential to result in significant impacts. Development will occur within an existing developed area within an urbanized area with no adverse effect on native vegetation or agricultural land. The new station's capacity will be substantially the same as the capacity of the old station and its accessory structures as the new station will accommodate the same number of firefighters and the same amount of equipment as the existing station and related structures. Demolition and construction activity will be of relatively short duration, will not adversely impact surrounding land uses, and will be conducted consistent with County rules and regulations.

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.**

This project is not located within a mapped environmentally or hazardously mapped area. CEQA Guidelines §15302 is a Class 2 exemption; therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (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.**

Fire Station 41 it is the only project of its type planned for the New Cuyama area. There are no other projects within valley that could create a cumulative impact issue. 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 Fire Station 41 project will replace existing structures, including a fire station, with a single fire station which assumes the functions of and occupies substantially the same footprint as the previous structures. The Fire Station 41 project will not have a significant effect on the environment, and the Fire Station 41 project has no features which distinguish it from others in the exempt class and might establish an unusual circumstance. Because the area is generally flat, the increase of height of the tower from 50 feet to 100 feet has no more of a visual impact than the current tower. 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 Fire Station 41 project will be built directly adjacent to Highway 166, which is not designated as a Scenic Highway, and will not otherwise impact any scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings. 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 site has not been designated a hazardous waste site. 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.**

None of the structures slated to be demolished are eligible for historic status, and construction of the Fire Station 41 project will not cause an adverse change to the significance of any other historical resources. This exception does not apply.


Robert Ooley, FAIA County Architect

Department/Division Representative

10/15/19

Date

Note: A copy of this document must be posted with the County's Planning & Development Department at least six (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.

Date Filed by County Clerk

Date filed with Planning & Development