

## ATTACHMENT A: FINDINGS

### CEQA FINDINGS

**Findings for Adoption of Thresholds of Significance.** In compliance with Section 15064.7(b) of the State of California's *Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act* (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3), the Board of Supervisors makes the following finding:

**Thresholds of significance to be adopted for general use as part of the lead agency's environmental review process must be adopted by ordinance, resolution, rule or regulation, and developed through a public review process and be supported by substantial evidence.**

The Board of Supervisors has adopted this threshold of significance by resolution, following a public review process in compliance with the County of Santa Barbara's *Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970*, §F.3.b (Process for thresholds amendment and adoption). The public review process entailed:

- The review of the draft thresholds by professional archaeologists, professional historians, and Native Americans, whose comments were used to revise the thresholds.
- Two duly noticed public hearings before the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission held on December 20, 2017, in the Planning Commission hearing room in Santa Barbara, and on January 10, 2017, in the Board of Supervisors hearing room in Santa Maria.
- One duly noticed public hearing before the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors held on February 27, 2018, in the Board of Supervisors hearing room in Santa Barbara.

The Board of Supervisors finds that its adoption of the threshold of significance is supported by the following substantial evidence:

- (1) CEQA encourages each public agency to develop, publish and adopt thresholds of significance that the agency uses in the determination of the significance of environmental effects (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.7(a)).
- (2) Significant cultural resources are non-renewable; therefore, they cannot be replaced. The disturbance or alteration of a cultural resource causes an irreversible loss of

significant information from the perspective of science and history, and also the loss of sacred places, objects and traditional cultural properties from the perspective of Native Americans and other groups. Regionally, the loss of cultural resources results in the loss of our identity and our connection with the past. More specifically, these losses include the demolition, destruction, relocation, or the material alteration of a cultural resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of a cultural resource would be materially impaired. The application of these thresholds will result in preservation of significant cultural resources whenever feasible and other mitigation of significant adverse changes in the significance of a resource if avoidance is not feasible.

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- (3) These proposed thresholds are largely based on and incorporate numerous sections of the CEQA Statute and Guidelines and are therefore more closely aligned and consistent with the purpose of CEQA in regard to the treatment of cultural resources during environmental review than the current thresholds.
- (4) These thresholds assist in providing a consistent, objective, and predictable evaluation of significant effects on cultural resources in the environmental review of discretionary permit application for proposed development projects.