

Attachment B

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management

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.: Not Applicable

Location: Closed Foothill Landfill/South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station, 4430 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, California 93110

Project Title: Approval of professional services contract with Geosyntec Consultants for the Installation and Abandonment of Landfill Gas Monitoring Probes for the Foothill Closed Landfill, Second Supervisorial District.

Project Description: This proposed project is the approval of a professional services contract with Geosyntec Consultants (a local vendor) to provide oversight for the installation and abandonment of landfill gas (LFG) monitoring probes for the Foothill Closed Landfill (Attachment 1). The Foothill Closed Landfill is subject to regulatory requirements for gas monitoring and controls at landfills and disposal sites, as defined in the California Code of Regulations Title 27, Subchapter 4, Article 6 (Title 27).

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division.

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: CEQA Guidelines Sections 15306 (Information Collection), 15308 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for the Protection of the Environment), Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) and 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land).

Reasons to support exemption findings:

The proposed project involves approval of a professional services contract to provide oversight for the installation and abandonment of landfill gas (LFG) monitoring probes for the Foothill Closed Landfill. Pursuant to the Title 27, the Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division (RRWMD) performs LFG monitoring at the Foothill Closed Landfill to protect public health and the environment. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 the purpose of the probes is to monitor for gas migration from an existing closed landfill (Foothill Closed Landfill). Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 installation of the probes has been required to protect public health and the environment as required by the County of Santa Barbara Department of Public Health Department, Environmental Health Services

(Local Enforcement Agency) and California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle). Consistent with CEQA Guidelines 15303 and 15304 the installation and abandonment of the LFG probes involves the construction of limited numbers of new, small facilities that will be located in disturbed areas on an existing neighboring industrial facility (South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station [SCRTS]) and will not adversely impact any sensitive vegetation, wildlife, or culturally sensitive areas. Therefore, the project has been found to be categorically exempt from CEQA.

There is no substantial evidence that the proposed project involves 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.**

The proposed project would be located at the existing SCRTS, a county-operated solid waste management facility and above the closed Foothill Landfill. No environmental resources of hazardous or critical concern are present. Therefore, this exclusion 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.**

No other LFG probes are proposed for the Foothill Landfill. Other projects at the SCRTS site include the construction of new storm water management facilities. These facilities were also found to be exempt from CEQA. Considering the limited construction scope for installation of the probes and because the probes would be primarily below ground, the proposed project would not contribute to cumulatively significant impacts. Therefore, this exclusion is not applicable.

- (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 would be constructed at an existing solid waste management facility that has been in operation since 1967. A portion of the SCRTS and adjacent areas are located above the closed Foothill Landfill. There are no unusual circumstances that are present at the site or surrounding area that would result in a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, this exclusion is not applicable.

- (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 would be constructed at an existing solid waste management facility that has been in operation since 1967. The facility is located at a county campus consisting of the County Jail, Road

Yard, Parks Department maintenance facility, and other county facilities. The project would not impact the restored areas of the landfill and would not result in the removal of any trees, buildings, rock outcroppings or other scenic resources. In addition, the probes would be largely below ground and the section of U.S. 101 south of the project site is not designated as a state scenic highway. Therefore, this exclusion is not applicable.

(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 project site is located on the closed Foothill Landfill above the active waste footprint. The Foothill Landfill was operated as a Class III municipal landfill. The landfill is not listed 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 would be constructed at an existing solid waste management facility that has been in operation since 1967. The site includes areas used for storage of co-mingled recyclables, green waste and mulch, and buildings used for maintenance and weighing activities. The remaining areas consist of moderately vegetated hillsides, administrative buildings and a parking lot. The probes would be located in existing disturbed areas of the site. Based on a prior survey conducted at SCRTS, there is cultural resource sensitivity in the general area however no historic resources have been observed in the area of the proposed construction and the disturbance associated with construction is not expected to extend into previously undisturbed soils. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jeanette Gonzales-Knight

Phone #: (805) 882-3600



Department/Division Representative: Joddi Leipner, Senior Engineering Environmental Planner

Date: May 31, 2018

Acceptance Date:

Date Filed at Planning and Development:

Date Filed by County Clerk:

RECEIVED
JUN 20 2018
S B COUNTY
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT



ATTACHMENT 1

Legend

- ⊕ Landfill Gas Probe - Proposed Abandonment
- ⊕ Landfill Gas Probe - Proposed Replacement Location
- ⊕ Landfill Gas Probe - Existing
- - - - - Approximate Limits of Landfill (from Dames and Moore (1998))

0 150 Feet
 North Arrow

Site Plan Foothill Closed Landfill Santa Barbara, California	Figure 2
Geosyntec consultants	Santa Barbara March 2018

C:\Users\jg101\OneDrive\Documents\Projects\2018\20180301_SantaBarbara_FHGP_SitePlan.mxd 12/28/2018 12:28:25 PM