

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Public Works Department, Resource Recovery & Waste Management 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: Not Applicable **Case No.:** Not Applicable

Location: Santa Barbara Regional Recycling Market Development Zone (SBRRMDZ), which includes the County of Santa Barbara and the cities of Buellton, Goleta, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, and Santa Maria.

Project Title: Renewal of Designation of Santa Barbara Regional Recycling Market Development Zone

Project Description: The proposed project is the renewal of the designation of the Santa Barbara Regional Recycling Market Development Zone (SBRRMDZ). The SBRRMDZ was originally established on January 24, 1996 and the California Integrated Waste Management Board (now CalRecycle) approved the renewal of its designation in 2006. The SBRRMDZ currently includes the County of Santa Barbara and the cities of Lompoc, Santa Barbara, and Santa Maria. In addition to renewing the proposed SBRRMDZ, the project includes expansion of the SBRRMDZ to include the cities of Buellton and Goleta. Upon CalRecycle's approval in December 2015, the SBRRMDZ's renewal date will change to that month and expire in 10 years from that date.

The CIWMB established the RMDZ program to offer incentives to manufacturers in a RMDZ that use:

- a) Recycled materials to make new products; or
- b) Prevent or reduce their manufacturing waste; or
- c) Add value to a finished product for reuse by reconditioning, reprocessing, repairing, washing, or manufacturing.

Under the RMDZ program, up to \$2 million may be borrowed (up to \$1 million for property acquisition) or 75 percent of a project's costs, whichever is less. The loan funds may be used for:

- Purchasing machinery or equipment;
- Acquiring property;

- Making property improvements (at least 25 percent of the costs have to be used for sustainable building products and services); and
- Providing working capital

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Mark Schleich, Deputy Director

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
 Statutory Exemption
 Categorical Exemption
 Emergency Project
 Declared Emergency
 No possibility of Significant Effect (CEQA Guidelines 15061(B)(3))

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: CEQA Guidelines 15061(B)(3), No possibility of Significant Effect

Reasons to support exemption findings: CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(B)(3) states that a project is exempt from CEQA if "the activity is covered by the general rule 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.

The proposed project involves the renewal of the designation of the Santa Barbara Regional Recycling Market Development Zone (SBRRMDZ or Zone) and expansion of the Zone to include the cities of Buellton and Goleta. The renewal of the designation is an administrative action which allows businesses within the Zone to be eligible to acquire state loan funds and provides other incentives to manufacturers that use: a) recycled materials to make new products; or b) prevent or reduce their manufacturing waste; or c) add value to a finished product for reuse by reconditioning, reprocessing, repairing, washing, or manufacturing. Renewal of the designation does not commit the County to the approval of any specific projects and any new development which may be eligible for loans or incentives as a result of the SBRRMDZ designation will be required to undergo a separate project specific CEQA review. Therefore, there is no possibility that the renewal of the designation and expansion of the zone will have a significant effect on the environment, and consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(B)(3) the project is exempt from CEQA.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Alan Nakashima Phone #: 805 882-3616

Department/Division Representative:  Joddi Leipner Date: September 18, 2015

Acceptance Date:

Date Filed at Planning and Development:

Date Filed by County Clerk:

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