

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
FROM: Steve Mason, Planning & Development

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: Countywide **Case No.:** 15ORD-00000-00017

Location: Countywide

Project Title: Amendments to Chapter 10, Building Regulations

Project Description: 15ORD-00000-00017, amends Chapter 10, Building Regulations of the Santa Barbara County Code § 105.2 a. 13 to increase the height from 12 to 20 feet.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: County of Santa Barbara

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency
- No possibility of significant effect (CEQA Section 15061(b)(3))

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15061(b)(3) states that “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”.

Reasons to support exemption findings:

This ordinance amends Chapter 10, Building Regulations of the Santa Barbara County Code § 105.2 a.13, “Readily removable plastic covered hoop structures without in ground footings or foundations that are not more than 12’ in height”, increasing the height to 20 feet. Certain climatic, geologic, and topographic

conditions unique to Santa Barbara County necessitate this modification. Such conditions include, but are not limited to, extreme weather conditions, from hot, dry winds from the east (Santa Ana and sundowner winds), to strong westerly (coastal) winds, which have an adverse effect on important agricultural crops. Without temporary plant shelter equipment, these conditions make impossible the growing of high-value agriculture crops like raspberries, blueberries, and blackberries. The ordinance amendment will allow greater flexibility for farmers who are attempting to use modern and more efficient farming technology. This ordinance amendment is not related to any particular development projects, and individual projects will be subject to compliance with CEQA, as applicable. The plant shelter equipment is temporary, can be readily removed, and is for the protection of high-value agricultural crops."Therefore it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this ordinance amendment may have a significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Steve Mason
Phone #: (805) 568-2070

Department/Division Representative: S Mason Date: 3-3-16

Acceptance Date: _____

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Project file
Date Filed by County Clerk: _____.

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