

ATTACHMENT 3

CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Errin Briggs

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: N/A Case No.: N/A

Location: N/A

Project Title: Agreement for Professional Services between the County of Santa Barbara and Marine Research Specialists to provide technical services for Development Review Division and Energy, Minerals & Compliance Division Projects

Project Applicant: N/A

Project Description: Approval of the Agreement with Marine Research Specialists to provide technical services for Energy, Minerals & Compliance and Development Review Divisions projects does not meet the definition of a "project" pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5).

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

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(5)

Reasons to support exemption findings:

Approval of the Agreement to provide technical services does not meet the definition of a "project" pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), which exempts organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

There is no substantial evidence that the proposed contract 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

This exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Errin Briggs

Phone #: 805-568-2047 Department/Division Representative: _____



Date: 9/1/21

Acceptance Date: September 21, 2021
[date of final action on project]

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____