

**ATTACHMENT D
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jacquelynn Ybarra, Supervising Planner, Energy Minerals & Compliance 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: N/A

Case No.: N/A

Location: N/A

Project Title: Contract Amendment No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement with Robert Brown Engineers.

Project Applicant: N/A

Project Description: Approve and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Robert Brown Engineers to increase the contract amount by \$220,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$550,000 for continued engineering consulting services to the Energy, Minerals & Compliance Division for the period of July 1, 2025, through to June 30, 2026.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara, Planning and Development Department

Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out Project: County of Santa Barbara, Planning and Development Department

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency
- Not a Project

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guidelines Section: 15378(b)(5); the proposed action does not constitute a project as defined in CEQA.

Reasons to support exemption findings: The contract amendment exempt from environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15378(a), as the proposed actions do not constitute a “project” as defined in CEQA. Section 15378(a) states, in part:

“Project” means the whole of an action, which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonable foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment...”

Section 15378(b)(5) specifically exempts “organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment” from this definition. The approval and authorization of a contract amendment is an administrative action that does not involve any physical changes to the environment. Therefore, no environmental review is required.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jacquelynn Ybarra, Supervising Planner, Energy Mineral & Compliance Division

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Department/Division Representative:



Errin Briggs, Deputy Director, Energy Mineral & Compliance Division

Date: March 3, 2026

Acceptance Date: _____

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____