

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
FROM: General Services Department/Support Services Division

Based on a preliminary review of the project the following activity 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(s) 131-160-015 **Real Property File No.** 001140

LOCATION: Tepusquet Peak, near Santa Maria

PROJECT TITLE: Tepusquet Peak Communication Site Lease with USFS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed action is to execute a lease, for a period of thirty years, with the United States Forest Service (USFS) to provide for the County's continued operation, repair, maintenance, and minor alteration and addition to the County-owned communication site facility located on USFS land.

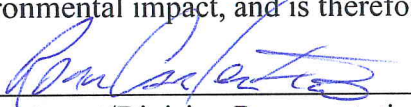
EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One)

- ☐ Ministerial
- ☐ Statutory
- ☒ **Categorical Exemption [Section 15301]**
- ☐ Emergency Project
- ☐ No Possibility of Significant Effect

Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section: 15301 Existing Facilities.

Reasons to support exemption findings: As set forth in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15301 of the California Code of Regulations provides an exemption for the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The proposed action is to continue the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, licensing, and minor alteration of the existing County-owned communication facility and mechanical equipment on USFS land at Tepusquet Peak; which involves a minor alteration of and addition to an existing public structure, involving negligible or no expansion of use, and therefore, has no potential effect on the environment.

The proposed addition to the existing County-owned facility at Tepusquet Peak is exempt pursuant to 15301, which sets forth examples of types of projects involving existing facilities determined to be exempt, including, in subsection (e), "Additions to existing structures provided that the addition will not result in an increase of more than:... 50 percent of the floor area of the structures before the addition, or 2,500 square feet, whichever is less..." The existing County-owned structures at the Tepusquet Peak site currently have a floor area of approximately 512 square feet. The proposed addition consists of 222 square feet, and therefore will not result in an increase of more than 50 percent or 2,500 square feet. The project is not likely to have a significant environmental impact, and is therefore categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to 14 CCR 15301.



Department/Division Representative

11.28.12

Date

NOTE: A copy of this document must be posted with the County's Planning and Development Department at least 6 days prior to consideration of the activity by the decision-makers to comply with County CEQA guidelines, and a copy must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board after project approval to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenges.

Distribution:

DATE FILED WITH CLERK OF THE BOARD