

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: General Services Department, Support 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(s): N/A Case No.: 8596

Location: Santa Ynez, Third Supervisorial District

Project Title: Santa Ynez Airport Capital Improvement Project (ACIP-15)

Project Description: This proposed project consists of construction of airfield electrical upgrades including runway edge and threshold lights, taxiway edge lights, guidance signs; install runway precision approach path indicators, install runway end identifier lights and lighted wind cones, electrical vault and back-up generator.

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory
- Categorical Exemption**
- Emergency Project
- No Possibility of Significant Effect [§15061(b,3)]

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 COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
 CLERK OF THE
 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section: 15301(c) Existing Facilities. Class I consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, including but not limited to.... (c) Existing highways or streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety).

Reasons to support exemption findings (attach additional material, if necessary): This project consists of repair and replacement of existing facilities involving negligible expansion beyond that previously existing.

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.**

CEQA Guidelines §15301 is a Class I exemption. Therefore, 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.

Despite ACIP projects being constructed almost every year, the projects are simply improvements and replacements of existing site facilities. There is no possibility of a cumulative impact. 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.

The ACIP-15 project will upgrade existing airfield electrical. The ACIP-15 project will not have a significant effect on the environment, and the ACIP-15 project has no features which distinguish it from others in the exempt class and might establish an unusual circumstance. 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.

The ACIP-15 project will not be visible from any Scenic Highway, and will not otherwise impact any scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings. 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.

The ACIP-15 project area has not been designated a hazardous waste site. 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.

Construction of the ACIP-15 project will not cause an adverse change to the significance of any historical resources. This exception does not apply.

General Services

Department/Division Representative

3/9/16

Date

Note: Upon project approval, this form must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board and posted by the Clerk of the Board for a period of 30 days to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenges.

Date Filed by County Clerk