

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Anne Almy

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: 005-080-004 **Case No.:** No case number

Location: Greenwell Preserve, Summerland Planning Area

Project Title: Greenwell Preserve Lease Agreement

Project Description:

Execute a Lease and Agreement with the Summerland Citizen's Association to Operate and Maintain a Public Park in Summerland, California.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Barbara County

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Community Services Department

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section 15301

Reasons to support exemption findings:

The proposed project is for the renewal of a lease agreement and does not involve an expansion of use. Therefore, the project is exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 which consists of the operation, repair, and 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.

There is no substantial evidence that the proposed project 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.\
- (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.

The renewal of a lease agreement for a public park would not result in a cumulatively considerable impact when considered in relation to the establishment and use of other public parks.

- (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.

There is no possibility that the renewal of a lease agreement for a public park would have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

- (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.

No development is proposed in association with the project. The adjacent Highway 101 is not considered a scenic highway.

- (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 Greenwell Preserve is not located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

- (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.

The Greenwell Preserve does not constitute an historic resource.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Herman Parker
Phone #: 805-568-2467 Department/Division Representative: Brian Roney
Date: May 22, 2012
Acceptance Date: _____
distribution: Hearing Support Staff
Date Filed by County Clerk: _____.