

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Community Services/County Parks

The activity identified below is not the approval of a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

APN(s): 145-160-072; 141-029-054 **Case No.:** N/A

Location: Lake Cachuma Recreation Area

Project Title: United States Bureau of Reclamation Management Agreement with County of Santa Barbara for Operation of Lake Cachuma Recreation Area

Project Description: This action is the Board of Supervisors' approval to renew an existing long term Management Agreement for the Lake Cachuma Recreation Area for a period of twenty five (25) years from the date of approval of this action, renewable, between the County of Santa Barbara and the Department of Interior - Bureau of Reclamation.

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
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Not a Project

Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section: §15352(a) and 15378

Reasons to support exemption findings:

As the managing partner for the agreement, the County of Santa Barbara, via the Management Agreement, accepts responsibility for the management of the recreation area and recreational facilities for the purposes of recreation and natural and cultural resource enhancement. The County is required to coordinate with the Bureau of Reclamation ("BOR") on any activities pursuant to the agreement that could impact the Cachuma Project works, water management and operations of activities of the facility. In addition, all activities undertaken by the County must be consistent with the BOR approved and certified Cachuma Lake Resource Management Plan ("RMP"), which designates allowable recreational uses in different geographic units in the plan area.

Approval of the Management Agreement does not require or commit the County, as managing partner, to construct any specific project set forth in the RMP, or to implement, facilitate or encourage any of the allowable recreational uses designated in the RMP. However, if the County subsequently seeks to construct any specific project set forth in the RMP, or enhance recreational

opportunities within the recreation area, these shall only occur after any necessary environmental review required by NEPA and CEQA.

The agreement further requires the County to develop and implement and maintain various plans including but not limited to Fire Management, Integrated Pest Management, Waste Recycling and Reduction, Boating Capacity and Safety, Grazing and Erosion Control that meet Federal Standards. These plans are subject to any necessary NEPA and CEQA review and shall be completed no more than three years from the signing of the agreement.

Approval of the Management Agreement does not:

- Commit the County to carrying out, funding, or issuing a permit for any project;
- Require the County to construct any specific project set forth in the Cachuma Lake Resource Management Plan (“RMP”), or to implement, facilitate or encourage any of the allowable recreational uses designated in the RMP; or
- Remove any permit requirement, environmental review requirement, or other legal requirement applicable to projects in either private lands or public lands.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Juan Beltranena

Phone: (805) 568-2470

Department/Division Representative (CEQA): _____ Date: _____

Acceptance Date: _____

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff
Project file (when P&D permit is required)