

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**

**FROM: General Services Department/Real Property 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.

**Case No. Real Property File No. 003908**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Sheriff Storage Lease Agreement

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The County of Santa Barbara will lease existing building space of 18,685 square feet to serve as both storage and office space for County's operations. The proposed Lease Agreement shall have a base term of five (5) years, beginning on the Commencement Date, with three (3) renewal options of two (2) years each.

**EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One)**

- Ministerial
- Statutory
- Categorical Exemptions [Sections 15301]**
- Emergency Project
- No Possibility of Significant Effect

**Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section:** 15301 [*Existing Facilities*]

**Reasons to support exemption findings:** The proposed action is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15301 [*Existing Facilities*] of the Guidelines for Implementation of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The CEQA Existing Facilities exemption at Section 15301 allows 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 of leasing for the County does not involve an expansion of use under the building's intended and past use, therefore, approval of the Lease is exempt from CEQA in accordance with Section 15301.

The building is zoned as M-1, Light Manufacturing, and County's proposed use as a warehouse fits the parameters of M-1 zoning. The surrounding area consists of adjacent industrial buildings comprising a multi-building industrial park with minimal exposure to street traffic and abundant open space nearby.

With regard to the proposed project, the exceptions to the Existing Facilities categorical exemption that must be considered 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 in 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.*

The section 15301 is a Class 1 Categorical Exemption, therefore this exception is not applicable.

- (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.*

There are no successive projects of the same type in the same place anticipated for this location. There is no cumulative impact, and therefore 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 County's proposed Lease for this space will not result in any physical changes or impacts to the environment and therefore will not result in a significant effect on the environment.

**(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.*

This proposed project is in an existing building. There are no scenic highways in the project area. 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.*

This proposed project is not located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. Therefore, it is not located on a hazardous waste section and this exemption 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.*

This proposed project does not involve any historical resources. This exception does not apply.

As described above, none of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions contained within Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines apply to this project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Alanna Chumney      **Phone:** (805) 568-3078

**Department/Division Representative:** Skip Grey, Assistant Director, General Services

Distribution:

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DATE FILED WITH CLERK OF THE BOARD

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Department/Division Representative      Date