

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Kevin De Los Santos, Planning and Development Department

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: 023-240-001 and 023-280-007 **Case No.:** N/A

Location: 610 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Project Title: Rocky Nook Park Historic Landmark Designation

Project Applicant: Santa Barbara County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission Chair Keith Coffman-Grey

Project Description: Adoption by the Board of Supervisors of a revised resolution approving the nomination Rocky Nook Park, located at 610 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, CA, Assessor's Parcel Nos. 023-240-001 and 023-280-007, First Supervisorial District, as a County Historic Landmark.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out Project: Santa Barbara County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission Chair Keith Coffman-Grey

Exempt Status:

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

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guidelines Section: Section 15308 [Actions by Regulatory Agencies for the Protection of the Environment] of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

Reasons to support exemption findings: The proposed project, Rocky Nook Park Historic Landmark Designation, is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15308 [Actions by Regulatory Agencies for the Protection of the Environment] of the Guidelines for

Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Specifically, Section 15308 exempts actions taken by regulatory agencies to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. The proposed project is a request to designate Rocky Nook Park as a County Historic Landmark in order to protect and enhance the existing environment.

The proposed project does not involve 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.**

This exception does not apply to Class 8 exemptions.

- (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 proposed project is a request to designate a park located within a Recreational (REC) Zone as a County Historic Landmark. Additional designations of parks as a County Historic Landmark that are developed in conformance with applicable ordinance and policy regulations on similar parcels in the vicinity would not result in a cumulatively significant impact. Therefore, this exception to the categorical exemptions 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.**

There are no unusual circumstances associated with this project or this property. Therefore, this exception to the Categorical Exemption is not applicable to the proposed project.

- (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 project site is not located in close proximity to any state designated scenic highway. The project site does contain historic resources, which is the reason why the project is a request to designate the park as a County Historic Landmark. The project will not result in degradation of scenic resources. Therefore, this exception to the Categorical Exemption is not applicable to the proposed project.

(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 proposed project is not located on a site that is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. Therefore, this exception to the categorical 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.

The project site does contain historic resources. The project is a request to designate the park as a County Historic Landmark to further enhance and protect historic resources located onsite. Therefore, this exception to the Categorical Exemption is not applicable to the proposed project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Kevin De Los Santos **Phone #:** (805) 884-8051

Department/Division Representative: 

Date: 10/25/2023

Acceptance Date: _____

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____