

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: General Services 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: 069-350-031

CASE NO.: RP File No.: 003824

LOCATION: 600 block of North Kellogg Avenue, in Goleta CA (APN 069-350-031)

PROJECT TITLE: Lease Agreement with Verizon Wireless at Kellogg Open Space, Goleta

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Executing the proposed Lease Agreement will allow Verizon Wireless to construct, operate and maintain a telecommunications facility on a portion of the County-owned property known as Kellogg Open Space, located in the 600 block of Kellogg Avenue, in Goleta

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT: Santa Barbara County

NAME OF PERSON OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT: Carlo Achdjian,
General Services

EXEMPT STATUS: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption(s) [Sections 15303 & 15304]
- Emergency Project

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: Section 15303 exempts the construction and location of a limited number of new small facilities or structures. Section 15304 exempts minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes including grading on slopes of less than ten percent, landscaping, and minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored.

Reasons to Support Exemption Findings:

[Section 15303] [New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures] of the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Section 15303 exempts the construction and location of a limited number of new small facilities or structures. The project consists of one 60-foot tall monopole designed to blend in with the adjacent SCE substation towers; and a 625 square foot lease area with all supporting equipment contained

within an area enclosed by a 10-ft tall slatted chain link fence. The entire telecommunications facility will be located amongst an existing group of trees, near the rear property line of the parcel adjacent to industrial uses. The project does not require the removal of any mature or protected trees. As a result, the project is exempt from CEQA.

[Section 15304]: Pursuant to Title 14, California Code of Regulations, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15304 [*Minor Alterations to Land*] exempts minor public or private alterations in the condition of land which do not involve mature tree removal, except for agricultural or forestry purposes. The project consists of one 60-foot tall monopole designed to blend in with the adjacent SCE substation towers; and a 625 square foot lease area with all supporting equipment contained within an area enclosed by a 10-ft tall slatted chain link fence. The entire telecommunications facility will be located amongst an existing group of trees, near the rear property line of the parcel adjacent to industrial uses. The project does not require the removal of any mature or protected trees. Therefore, Section 15304 applies to the Project.

There is no substantial evidence that there are 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 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.***

The proposed project would not be located in environmentally sensitive habitat. No significant vegetation would be removed to accommodate the project. No known archaeological or historical resources would be affected by the project. There are no known landslides, expansive soils, or other hazardous resources designated or precisely mapped on the project site. Therefore, this exception to the categorical exemption 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.***

The project is for an unmanned, telecommunications facility consisting of a support tower, nine (9) panel antennas, and one (1) equipment shelter. A radio frequency (RF) and Electro-Magnetic Energy (EME) emissions report was prepared as part of the proposed project. The report concluded that the direct and cumulative emissions of the proposed project will operate within the applicable Federal Communications Commission (FCC) limit. Any future telecommunications facility on the site would be analyzed for potential environmental impacts, and all future facilities would also be required to meet Federal

Communications Commission (FCC) radio frequency emission limits. Similar development in the same place over time, developed in conformance with the applicable ordinance, policy and FCC regulations would not result in a cumulatively significant impact. Therefore, this exception to the categorical exemption 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 known unusual circumstances of the project or the proposed location that will cause the project to have a significant effect on the environment. In addition, as stated above, the RF/EME emissions generated from the proposed project are projected to be within the FCC emissions limits, and therefore the facility would not have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, this exception to the categorical exemption 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.*

No portions of the project will be visible from any highways officially designated as a state scenic highway. Therefore, the proposed development would not result in damage to scenic resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway and this exception to the categorical exemption 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 project site is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (hazardous and toxic waste sites). In addition, there is no evidence of historic or current use or disposal of hazardous or toxic materials on the project site. 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 proposed development would not be located on any historical resources and would therefore have no impact on any historical resource. Therefore, this exception to the categorical exemption does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Carlo Achdjian

Phone No.: (805) 568-3081

Department/Division Representative: _____ **Date:** _____

Acceptance Date: _____

Note: A copy of this form must be posted at P&D six days prior to a decision on the project. 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.

Distribution:

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____