

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Community 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(s): N/A **Case No.:** N/A

Location: Santa Barbary County

Project Title: Participation in Regional Energy Network (REN)

Project Description: The California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has made available an opportunity for local governments to submit proposals to receive rate-payer funding through an organizational structure known as a Regional Energy Network (REN), whereby local governments are considered "Program Administrators" for certain types of energy efficiency programs. Rate-payer funding is considered the largest and most accessible form of external funding to support energy efficiency programs necessary to meet the County's Energy and Climate Action Plan goals. Given that only one REN may operate within any particular boundary, participating in a REN will have lasting impacts on how rate-payer funding is allocated to Santa Barbara County for energy efficiency programs. Santa Barbara County is considering participating in a joint REN proposal with Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties.

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- No Possibility of Significant Effect [§15061(b,3)]
- Other

Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section: 15378(b)(4); the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project are not a project.

Reasons to support exemption findings (attach additional material, if necessary):

The consulting agreement does not result in direct physical impacts to the environment. When individual projects and programs contained within these documents proceed to implementation, they may be subject to environmental review under NEPA and/or CEQA for possible impacts which are unique to that particular project and/or program.

Department/Division Representative Jill Van Wie Date 10/6/16

Note: A copy must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board after project approval and posted by the Clerk of the Board for a period of 30 days.

Copies to: File

Date File of Counter Clerks