

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division

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.

Location: Unincorporated, urbanized areas Goleta and Santa Barbara (CSA 3), in the community of Isla Vista (CSA 31), and the Santa Barbara North County Lighting District in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Supervisorial Districts.

Project Title: Establishing Benefit Assessments for County Service Areas 3, 31, and the Santa Barbara North County Lighting District for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Supervisorial Districts

Project Description: This action is to establish the benefit assessments for streetlighting services in County Service Area 3 (CSA 3) at \$24.00 per residential parcel (factored for other development types), County Service Area 31 (CSA 31) at \$12.93 per residential parcel (factored for other development types), and to not establish (set to zero) the benefit assessment for zones in the Santa Barbara North County Lighting District (SBNCLD) that have benefit assessments. These amounts remain unchanged from last year.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Public Works Department

Exempt Status: (Check one)

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

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: CEQA Guidelines (CCR Section 15273(a)(1)-(4), "Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges".

Reasons to support exemption findings (attach additional material, if necessary): Streetlights used in public road rights of way are owned and operated by the Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) in the north county and by the Southern California Edison Company (SCE) in the south county. Revenue to fund the operational costs of streetlighting comes from the County Road Fund, property taxes and benefit assessments. The Road Fund provides for streetlighting services not located within a lighting district or county service area where property taxes and benefit assessments are generated. In total, the County operates two streetlighting districts and three county service areas. Of these, County Service Area 3 (unincorporated Goleta and Santa

Barbara), County Service Area 31 (Isla Vista), and portions of the Santa Barbara North County Lighting District generate revenue from benefit assessments. Establishing the benefit assessment is required annually pursuant to the Government Code and the Streets and Highways Code and is for the purposes of meeting operating and capital expenses, as well as for meeting financial reserve needs required to maintain services within the existing service areas. Said rates are not for the expansion of the service system. Therefore, consistent with CEQA Guidelines (CCR Section 15273(a) (1)-(4)), the actions are exempt from CEQA.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Martin Wilder, Utilities Manager Phone #: (805) 803-8755

Department/Division Representative: Joddi Leipner, Sr. Engineering Environmental Planner

Date: February 27, 2023

Acceptance Date:

DATE FILED BY CLERK OF THE BOARD _____