

ATTACHMENT B

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Glenn S. Russell, Ph.D., Planning and Development

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: N/A

Case No.: N/A

Location: N/A

Project Title: Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor, PMC (Planning Consultant)

Project Description: On October 15, 2013, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors approved a professional services contract with PMC to provide staff with technical assistance on development of the Energy and Climate Action Plan.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: PMC

Exempt Status: (Check one)

☐ Ministerial

☐ Statutory Exemption

☒ X Categorical Exemption

☐ Emergency Project

☐ Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15306

Reasons to support exemption findings: CEQA Section 15306 exempts basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.

The Agreement for Services is for a third party independent contractor to provide technical assistance to support lead agency preparation of an Energy and Climate Action Plan. There is no substantial evidence that these services would result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource and therefore meets the definition of CEQA Section 15306.

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.

The proposed project is a study only and is not located on a site.

- (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 study only and there is no cumulative impact associated with the proposed project.

- (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 proposed project is a study only and there are no unusual circumstances that would cause the proposed project to have 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.

The proposed project is a study only and would not result in damage to scenic resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.

- (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 a study only and is not located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

- (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 project is a study only and is not located on a historic resource site.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Heather Imgrund

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Department/Division Representative: Glenn S. Russell, Ph.D., Planning and Development
Date: _____

Acceptance Date: _____

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____