

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Tina Mitchell, Planner

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.

APNs: 117-170-063, 117-170-056, 117-170-054

Case No.: 19AGP-00000-00001

Location: Located approximately 620 yards northwest of the intersection of West Main Street and North Blosser Road, in the Santa Maria area, Fifth Supervisorial District

Project Title: Acquistapace New Agricultural Preserve Contract

Project Applicant: Dave Cross, Agent

Project Description: Agricultural Preserve New Contract 19AGP-00000-00001, a single preserve of 81.09-acres (a portion of APNs: 117-170-063, 117-170-056, 117-170-054).

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Dave Cross, Agent

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory
- No Possibility of Significant Effect [§15061(b,3)]
- Emergency Project
- Categorical Exemption
- Not A Project Exemption (§15378)

Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section: 15317, [Open Space Contracts or Easements] – This section exempts the establishment of agricultural preserves under the Williamson Act. The creation of an Agricultural Preserve will not cause a significant environmental impact to the surrounding area. The project site is approximately 81.09 acres and used for seasonal row crops. The project will not increase the demand on existing services, will not result in the loss of any existing native vegetation, will not require extensive grading or land alteration, nor will it impact any biological, archaeological or other sensitive environmental resources.

There is no substantial evidence that the proposed project involves 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.

Exception (a) does not apply to Class 17 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 for the placement of property into the Williamson Act Program (Agricultural Preserve). Upon approval of the Agricultural Preserve contract the parcel size would remain unchanged. The proposal would not result in an increase in development potential or an increase in subdivision potential. The property owner would continue their current agricultural operations. The cumulative impact of successive project of this type in the same place, over time, would not be significant.

- (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 minor in nature and there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project involves unusual circumstances, including future activities, resulting in or which might reasonably result in significant effects 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 does not include any physical development and would not be visible from a designated scenic highway. The project would not result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to: trees, historic buildings, or rock outcropping.

- (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 a hazardous waste site 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.

No construction, demolition or development is proposed as part of the project and the project would not result in any substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Tina Mitchell Phone #: 934-6289

Department/Division Representative: Jina Mitchell

Date: 11.28.19

Acceptance Date: _____

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____

Note: A copy of this form must be posted at P&D 6 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.