

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Paul Clementi, Planning & Development

The 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: See Attachment A

Location: Los Padres National Forest, Santa Barbara County

Title: Initiation of Annexation of Territory into the Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District

Description: This proposed annexation by the Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District involves all territory within Santa Barbara County that is not presently located within the Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District, with the exception of areas served by an incorporated City or other fire district and excluding the Channel Islands (Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, San Miguel and Santa Rosa). A list of Tax Rate Areas (TRAs) included in the annexation is contained in Attachment B. Approximately 1,925 parcels would be annexed, the majority of which are located within the Los Padres National Forest. Following annexation, a portion of the property taxes generated by these parcels would be re-allocated to the Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District, which presently does not receive any property tax revenue from these parcels. A total of approximately 629,941 acres of land would be annexed, 629,563 acres of which are located within Los Padres National Forest. The remaining 378 acres are located outside the National Forest boundaries. Although not presently located within the Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District, the parcels to be annexed are already served by the Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District. Annexation would apportion property tax revenue to compensate the Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District for provision of fire protection services within the annexation area and ensure that all territory within Santa Barbara County is located within the jurisdiction of a local fire protection agency. No physical development is proposed or would occur as a result of the annexation.

Name of Public Agency Approving Activity:	Santa Barbara LAFCO
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Activity:	Santa Barbara County Fire

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency
- Not a Project

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15378(b)(4), (5)

Reasons to support exemption findings: The Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District's proposed annexation of territory within the Los Padres National Forest is not a "project" under CEQA. No physical development is proposed as part of the annexation. The annexation merely extends the Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District boundary to encompass areas within the County already served by the Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District, but not located within the District.

- **It will not lead to physical changes to or impacts on the environment.** Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District already provides de facto fire protection and emergency response services to privately owned parcels within the National Forest and the area to be annexed. The annexation recognizes this existing provision of service and would not result in any change in service or any future development that could cause physical impacts to the environment.
- **It is not related to any anticipated land development or other activity affecting the environment.** The proposed annexation is strictly related to redrawing the boundaries of the Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District for the purpose of re-apportioning property tax revenue from the affected parcels, and is not related to any anticipated development.
- **It will leave the annexed parcels within the County's zoning jurisdiction and will not result in any changes to existing or allowable uses for the affected parcels.** No change of land use or land use designation is proposed as part of the annexation. The proposed annexation neither rezones any parcels nor removes them from the jurisdiction of County land use decision makers. Land use authority will remain under the purview of the County Board of Supervisors.

For the reasons stated above, the proposed annexation is deemed to be categorically exempt from CEQA because it does not meet the definition of a "project" as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Chief Michael Dyer

Phone #: 681.5501

Department/Division Representative: _____ Date: _____

Acceptance Date: _____

Attachments

- a. List of Assessor Parcel Numbers
- b. List of Tax Rate Areas
- c. List of Pending Permit Applications
- d. List of Agricultural Preserve Contracts

distribution: Hearing Support Staff
 Project file (when P&D permit is required)
 Date Filed by County Clerk: _____.