

Attachment B

Notice of Exemption

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Planning & 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: Various areas within the County

Projects Title: 2014 Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund (CREF) Awards

Projects Description: Allocation of CREF Awards in the 2014 Cycle

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: n/a

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: County of Santa Barbara

Exempt Status: (Check one)

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

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15061 (b)(3) and 15378(b)(4)

Reasons to support exemption findings:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15061 (b)(3) states that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. CEQA Section 15378 (b)(4) defines a "Project" as not including the creation of government funding mechanisms. Allocation of CREF awards is a proposed budget allocation, and therefore is not considered a "Project" nor is it considered to cause a significant effect on the environment. CEQA compliance will be addressed when individual CREF Grant Agreements are approved by the Board of Supervisors.

There is no substantial evidence that there are 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.**
- (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.**
- (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.**
- (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.

- (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.**
- (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 exceptions to Categorical Exemptions do not apply to the awarding of CREF funding to various County and non-County projects because CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4) provides that creating a funding mechanism is not a project. Allocation of CREF awards is a proposed budget allocation, and therefore is not considered a "Project." CEQA compliance will be addressed when individual CREF Grant Agreements are approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Lead Agency Contact Person: _____ Phone #: _____

Department/Division Representative: _____ Date: _____

Acceptance Date: _____

distribution: Hearing Support Staff

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