

Attachment B

CEQA Notice of Exemption

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Matt Naftaly, Water Agency

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: NA

Case No.: NA

Location: Santa Barbara County

Project Title: Water Management Plan

Project Description: The Santa Barbara County Water Agency (Water Agency) holds the Master Contract for the Cachuma Project with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). In turn, the Water Agency holds contracts with the Carpinteria Water District, the Montecito Water District, the City of Santa Barbara, the Goleta Water District, and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, ID#1, collectively called the Cachuma Member Units (MUs). In accordance with these contracts, the USBR requires that the Water Agency and MUs complete a Water Management Plan every five years and have it adopted by their respective governing entities. The plan is required to follow the USBR template and is a compilation of information on water supplies, infrastructure, sources, costs, and conservation measures of each MU and the Water Agency. Because the Water Agency is not a purchaser or purveyor of water, much of the requested information on the Plan is not applicable to the Water Agency but is provided separately in the MU Plans. The USBR will include the Water Agency and MU Plans in the Federal Registry.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Barbara County Water Agency
and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Exempt Status: (Check one)

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

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: Section 15306 (Class 6)
Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource
evaluation activities.

Reasons to support exemption findings: The Water Management Plan is a planning document that provides information and data regarding water management programs and Best Management Practices (BMP's). The Water Management Plan does not result in a serious or major disturbance to any environmental resource, thereby conforming to CEQA guidelines and protecting natural resources and the environment.

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.

The Water Management Plan will have no significant impact on any physical environment. Therefore, this exemption does not apply.

- (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 Water Management Plan involves only the production of a report. Production of subsequent reports (every five years) would not result in significant impacts to the physical environment. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (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 Water Management Plan is a report and therefore has no unusual circumstances associated with it. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (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 Water Management Plan does not involve a scenic highway or a project which may result in damage to a scenic resource, removal of trees, rock outcropping or similar resource. Therefore, this exception does not apply.


- (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.

There are no hazardous wastes associated with the Water Management Plan. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (f) **Historical Resources.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The Water Management Plan will have no historical resource associated with it. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matt Naftaly Phone #: 805 568-3542

Department/Division Representative:  Date: 9/10/15

NOTE: A copy of this document must be posted with the County's Planning & Development Department at least 6 days prior to consideration of the activity by the decision-makers to comply with County CEQA guidelines and a copy must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board after project approval to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenges.

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SEP 10 2015

Distribution: Date Filed with Planning & Development: _____
Date Filed by County Clerk: _____

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