

ATTACHMENT 3: CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Planning & Development, Energy & Minerals Division

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: Approval of a contract to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the Strauss Wind Energy Project (16CUP-00000-00031, 18CDP-00000-00001, and 18VAR-00000-00002)

Project Applicant: N/A

Project Description: Approval of the contract to prepare an Environmental Impact Report does not meet the definition of a “project” pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5).

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

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 15378(b)(5)

Reasons to support exemption findings:

Approval of the contract to prepare the Environmental Impact Report does not meet the definition of a “project” pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), which exempts organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to 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.

This exception 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.**

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.**

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.**

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.**

This exception does not apply.

- (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.**

This exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Kathy Pfeifer

Phone #: 568-2507 Department/Division Representative: _____

Date: June 25, 2018

Acceptance Date: _____

distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____.