

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: General Services Department, Facilities Division

Based on a preliminary review of the project, the following activity 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(s): Various County Wide **Case No.:** N/A

LOCATION: All Supervisorial Districts

PROJECT TITLE: The Santa Barbara County Energy Action Plan: Efficient Electricity Use in County Facilities and the Santa Barbara County Benchmarking Policy.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Energy Action Plan: Efficient Electricity Use in County Facilities (EAP) identifies potential equipment replacements that will allow the County to realize its goal of maximizing energy efficiency in facilities and building operations. The Benchmarking Policy will compare the energy use metrics of a building against similar facilities throughout the County to help understand the relative energy efficiency of the building.

EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One)

- ☐ Ministerial
- ☐ Statutory
- ☒ **x** Categorical Exemption (15301)
- ☐ Emergency Project
- ☐ No Possibility of Significant Effect Sec. 15061 (b)(3)

Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section: CEQA Guidelines §15301

Reasons to support exemption findings: The proposed actions are for the operation, maintenance and minor alteration of existing public structures and facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that presently existing. As defined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, Section 15301 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. All of the activities contemplated in the First Amendment are part of the current activities and no expansion of an existing use and therefore, the categorical exemption stated above is applicable for the proposed action and satisfies the requirements of CEQA.

Department/Division Representative Roy Hapeman Date

Date filed by County Clerk _____

NOTE:
A copy of this document must be posted with the County's Planning and 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.