

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:** Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** General Services Department/Support Services 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):** 059-120-004, 141-440-002, 099-261-022, 097-380-043, 129-201-001.

**Case No.** Real Property File No. 003690

**LOCATION:** 4408 Cathedral Oaks Road, Santa Barbara; 906 Airport Road, Santa Ynez; 168 W. Highway 246, Buellton; 3500 Harris Grade Road, Lompoc; 5003 Depot Ave., Santa Maria.

**PROJECT TITLE:** USGS Site Access Agreement for Seismic Monitoring Equipment

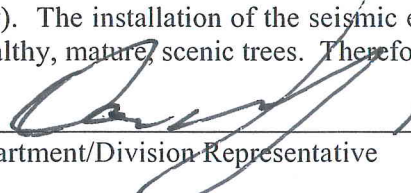
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The proposed action is to execute a Site Access Agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for the licensing of approximately 150 square feet of exterior space at five (5) County-owned facilities (Four Fire Stations and the Emergency Operations Center) for the purposes of installing Earthquake Early Warning seismic monitoring equipment to improve Earthquake Early Warning coverage and enhance the County's capacity to respond quickly to earthquake emergencies.

**EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One)**

- ☐ Ministerial
- ☐ Statutory
- ☒ X Categorical Exemption [Section 15301 and Section 15304]
- ☐ Emergency Project
- ☐ No Possibility of Significant Effect

**Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section:** 15301 Existing Facilities and 15304 Minor Alterations to Land

**Reasons to support exemption findings:** As set forth in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15301 of the California Code of Regulations provides an exemption for "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." Section 15304 provides an exemption "for minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes." The proposed action is to execute a license agreement (licensing) for the installation of Earthquake Early Warning seismic monitoring equipment on an area approximately 10' x 15' in size (minor alteration) on four Fire Stations and the Emergency Operations Center (existing public facilities) involving negligible or no expansion of use (public safety). The installation of the seismic equipment constitutes a minor public alteration in land not involving the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Therefore, the project is exempt from CEQA.

  
Department/Division Representative

12/18/13  
Date

**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.

Distribution:

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DATE FILED WITH CLERK OF THE BOARD