

Attachment B

CEQA Notice of Exemption

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

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(s): N/A **Case No.:** N/A

Location: Santa Barbara County

Project Title: Building Energy Science Training (BEST) Contract for Services

Project Description: emPower Central Coast is the County’s voluntary building efficiency program designed to lower energy use across the region and stimulate the economy. emPower provides services that help make it easier and more affordable for homeowners and contractors to complete energy saving improvements, including free energy advising services. Launched in January 2013, the energy advising service has already provided on-site expert home energy advice for 400 homeowners and 50 contractor mentorships. Due to the popularity of the program and the recent expansion throughout Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties, expenditures for the existing service provider (which is termed an “Energy Coach”), BEST, are estimated to surpass \$100,000 for contractual services this fiscal year.

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- ☐ Ministerial
☐ Statutory
☐ Categorical Exemption
☐ Emergency Project
☐ No Possibility of Significant Effect [§15061(b,3)]
☒ Other

Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section: 15378(b)(4); the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project are not a project.

Reasons to support exemption findings (attach additional material, if necessary):

Approval of a contract with a firm that will provide energy saving advice to homeowners and contractors does not result in direct physical impacts to the environment.

Department/Division Representative Jill Van Wie Date 1/9/15

Note: A copy must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board after project approval and posted by the Clerk of the Board for a period of 30 days.

Date File of Counter Clerks