

Attachment E

CEQA Notice of Exemption

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Community Services Department

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 Barbary County

Project Title: Amendments to the empower Funding Agreements through 2016

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. Launched in November 2011, emPower provides services that help make it easier and more affordable for homeowners and contractors to complete energy saving improvements, including a low cost financing option administered through an arrangement with CoastHills Credit Union (CoastHills). In June 2013, the County approved additional program funding provided by Southern California Gas Company (SCG) to continue emPower and expand the program to Ventura and San Luis Obispo (SLO) Counties. SCG funding was originally set to expire in December 2015; SCG is now offering an additional \$1.3M in annualized funding and an extended term through December 2016. The Amendments would extend the term and increased funding to the SCG Funding Agreement and the Subrecipient Agreements with Ventura and SLO Counties and Financing Agreements with CoastHills.

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 the Amendments does not result in direct physical impacts to the environment. When individual projects and programs contained within these documents proceed to implementation, they may be subject to environmental review under NEPA and/or CEQA for possible impacts which are unique to that particular project and/or program.

Department/Division Representative Jill Van Wie

Jill Van Wie

Date 11/23/15

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.

Copies to: File

Date File of Counter Clerks