

Attachment B

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Glenn S. Russell, Ph.D., Planning and Development

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: Countywide

Project Title: Southern California Gas Company Advanced Meter Project Expedited Permit Process Agreement for Services with Amec Foster Wheeler.

Project Description: On May 18, 2016, Planning and Development received an Agreement for Payment of Processing Fees from Southern California Gas Company (SCGC), wherein SCGC agreed to pay for all processing costs, up to \$120,000, associated with the project to amend the County's Wireless Telecommunications Facilities Ordinance to exempt Southern California Gas Company's Advanced Meter network. Amec Foster Wheeler will be: (1) developing an expedited permit process to be available for use by the Southern California Gas Company in completing their installation of their Advanced Meter Project in Santa Barbara County, (2) conducting the appropriate level of environmental review required for the project, and (3) preparing a staff report for presentation at public hearings.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Amec Foster Wheeler

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- ☐ Ministerial
- ☐ Statutory Exemption
- ☒ Categorical Exemption
- ☐ Emergency Project
- ☐ Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: CEQA Guidelines Section 153060(c) states, "An activity is not subject to CEQA if...[t]he activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378." CEQA Section 15378(b)(5) states, "[p]roject does not include...[o]rganizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment."

Reasons to support exemption findings: The Agreement for Services is for a third party independent contractor to complete environmental analysis in compliance with CEQA and provide technical assistance to support lead agency preparation of an expedited permit process and amendments to the zoning ordinances to implement the proposed permit process. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), the Agreement for Services is an administrative activity of

government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. As a result, the Agreement for Services is not considered a “project” and is not subject to CEQA.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Alyssa Krag-Arnold

Telephone: (805) 884-8060

Department/Division Representative: _____ Date: _____

Acceptance Date: _____

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____

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