

ATTACHMENT 2

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Steven Counts Imara, 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: California Office of Emergency Services Hazard Mitigation Grant

Project Applicant: Santa Barbara County Planning and Development

Project Description: The Planning and Development Department is seeking authorization from the Board of Supervisors to apply for grant funding from the Cal OES 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to fund a robust hazard risk and vulnerability assessment for the entire unincorporated County. The vulnerability assessment would assess risk from future wildfire, drought, flooding, heat, severe storm, and other hazards that may be exacerbated by climate changes in global and regional climate and local conditions. The results of the inland assessment, as well as the results from the existing and ongoing coastal resiliency risk assessments, would be comprehensively examined and adaptation strategies would be proposed in a future, County-wide adaptation plan. The Safety Element of the County Comprehensive Plan would then be updated to address climate hazards and risk, as well as referencing the updated LHMP to coordinate hazard policy and mitigation efforts.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Barbara County Planning and Development

Exempt Status: (Check one)

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

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15262 – A project involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the agency, board, or commission has not approved, adopted, or funded does not require the preparation of an EIR or Negative Declaration but does require consideration of environmental factors. This section does not apply to the adoption of a plan that will have a legally binding effect on later activities.

Reasons to support exemption findings:

The application for grant funding and Safety Element background studies and future needs assessments qualify for an exemption under CEQA guidelines Section 15262 because the grant-funded project would involve planning

studies for identification of possible future actions that have not been approved, adopted, or funded by the County.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Steven Counts Imara, Planner

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Department/Division Representative: _____
Daniel Klemann, Deputy Director

Date of Final Action on Project: _____

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____