

# Attachment D

**ATTACHMENT D  
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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

**FROM:** Santa Barbara County Department of Public Works, Resource Recovery and Waste Management

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:** 081-150-019,-026,-081, and -032, 081-100-005 and 081-090-009 **Case No.:** NA

**Location:** Tajiguas Landfill and Baron Ranch, 14470 and 14550 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA 93117

**Project Title:** Approvals and Authorizations Associated with the Tajiguas Landfill and Baron Ranch Trail and Master Plan; First, Second and Third Supervisorial Districts

**Project Applicant:** Santa Barbara County Department of Public Works, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division (RRWMD)

**Project Description:** The proposed actions include approval of a resolution that establishes a policy stating that residual and solid waste burial activities at the Tajiguas Landfill will cease once the current permitted disposal capacity of 23,300,000 cubic yards is reached and the County will not seek an expansion of the Tajiguas Landfill other than for emergency debris. The resolution also provides that the County will begin to seek landfill locations other than the Gaviota Coast when the Tajiguas Landfill has seven years of remaining disposal capacity. A second action commits the Public Works department to hire a consultant (and spend up to \$100,000) to prepare a Master Plan for the future uses of the Baron Ranch property. A third action commits the County to fund up to \$130,000 to complete the approved and permitted Baron Ranch Trail.<sup>1</sup> These actions would allow the County to fulfill conditions of a Conditional Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release approved by your Board in the *Gaviota Coast Conservancy v. County of Santa Barbara* litigation.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Barbara County

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Mark Schleich, Deputy Director, Public Works Department

**Exempt Status:** (Check one)

- ☐ Ministerial
- ☒ Statutory Exemption (Guidelines Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies)  
as a feasibility or planning study
- ☐ Categorical Exemption
- ☐ Emergency Project
- ☐ Declared Emergency
- ☒ Not a Project (Section 15378 (b)(2) and (b)(5))

**Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section:** CEQA Guidelines Section 15378, (a) "Project" means the whole of an action, which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. (b) Project does not include: (2) Continuing administrative or maintenance activities, such as purchases for supplies, personnel-related actions, general policy and procedure making; (4) the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact to the environment; or (5) Organizational or administrative activities of governmental

---

<sup>1</sup> This action is being taken in furtherance of the Baron Ranch Trail Improvements Project that was approved by the County Planning Commission on June 28, 2017, and pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines section 15162 this action has been determined to be within the scope of the project covered by the mitigated negative declaration, No. 17NGD-00000-00007, SCH No. 2017021030.

Notice of Exemption


Page 2

agencies that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 exempts by statute, 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."

**Reasons to support exemption findings:** The County is proposing to adopt a resolution establishing a policy statement regarding limitations on the future expansion of the Tajiguas Landfill and use of Baron Ranch. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 (b)(2) and (b)(5) the resolution is part of the County's general policy and procedure making authority and is an administrative action by the Board of Supervisors that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and therefore not a project under CEQA. In addition, consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4) and (b)(5), the funding of and direction regarding the Master Plan is a government funding mechanism or administrative activity that does not involve a commitment to any specific project and that will not result in any direct or indirect physical changes. The Master Plan action only directs County staff to work with a consultant on a master plan, but does not commit the County to any later activities or any specific project. Further, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15262, the preparation of the Master Plan for the Baron Ranch property is part of a feasibility study to identify potential future uses and management of the ranch. Preparation of the plan will not have a legally binding effect on later activities. Any recommendations for projects or actions resulting from the Master Plan would be subject to further approval and funding and subject to compliance with CEQA. Therefore, the action to commit the Public Works department to hire a consultant to prepare a Master Plan without any commitment to approve, adopt, or fund future projects is statutorily exempt from CEQA.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Mark Schleich, Deputy Director Santa Barbara County Public Works RRWMD

Phone #: 805-882-3600

Department/Division Representative:  Joddi Leigner, Senior Engineering Env. Planner

Date: June 6, 2018

Acceptance Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Filed with Planning and Development

Date Filed by County Clerk

**RECEIVED**

**JUN 08 2018**

**S B COUNTY  
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**