

Attachment B

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Public Works Department, 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: 133-151-074 and -076 **Case No.:** Not Applicable

Location: 4004 Foxen Canyon Road, Los Olivos, California 93441

Project Title: Approval of professional services contract with Tetra Tech Inc. for Final Level 2 Exceedance Response Action (ERA) Technical Report and Engineering Design/Construction Quality Assurance (COA) Services at the Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station, Third Supervisorial District

Project Description:

Approval of a professional services contract with Tetra Tech Inc. to provide regulatory compliance support to the Public Works, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division (RRWMD) by preparing a Final Level 2 Exceedance Response Action (ERA) Technical Report and provide engineering design and construction quality assurance (COA) services for the Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station (SYVRTS) for best management practices identified in that report. Project activities will include preparation of final design plans for implementation of the following storm water quality best management practices (BMPs):

- Infiltration basins varying in length and width approximately 4' to 100' at up to six drainage inlets to be constructed in phases. Each basin is lined with concrete and filled with engineered soil media designed for removal of storm water pollutants from runoff flowing offsite. The BMPs are sized and located to capture runoff from the surrounding area. Runoff will enter the BMPs through surface flow and then percolate through the soil media. After passing through the soil media, the treated runoff will enter a perforated pipe that conveys water out of the BMP and connects to the existing storm water conveyance system. The BMPs will include cleanouts at multiple locations for maintenance access. One of the cleanouts in each system will be designated for post-treatment sampling to monitor the performance of the BMP. Maintenance of the systems will be required when samples collected from the cleanout begin to show increased constituent concentrations (i.e., breakthrough). The BMPs will be constructed with a bypass to prevent flooding within the facility during very large storm events or failure of the BMPs.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Mark Schleich, Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division (RRWMD).

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency
- Not a Project (Section 15378(b)(5))

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: With respect to the approval of the contract for the final Level 2 ERA Action Plan, 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: (5) Organizational or administrative activities of governmental agencies that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment." With respect to BMP design and construction, the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures (CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 and minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes (CEQA Guidelines Section 15304) are exempt from CEQA.

Reasons to support exemption findings:

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is the agency responsible to execute professional services contracts. The RRWMD is proposing to contract with Tetra Tech, Inc. to assist RRWMD in continued compliance with regulatory requirements by completing the final Level 2 ERA Action Plan. Approval of the contract and preparation of the Level 2 ERA Action Plan is an administrative activity that would not result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment, and is therefore not a project under CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5).

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 and 15304, construction of a limited number of new storm water treatment BMPs to improve storm water quality discharging from the SYVRTS is exempt from CEQA. Consistent with Section 15303 and 15304, the BMPs would be constructed within previously disturbed areas of the SYVRTS site, on slopes less than 10 percent, and will not require the removal of any trees or native vegetation.

There is no substantial evidence that the proposed project involves unusual circumstances, including future activities, resulting in or which might reasonably result in significant impacts which threaten the environment. The exceptions to the categorical exemptions pursuant to Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines are:

- (a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located -- a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.**

The proposed project would be located at the existing SYVRTS, a county-operated solid waste management facility. No environmental resources of hazardous or critical concern are present. Therefore, this exclusion is not applicable.

- (b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.**

A vegetated swale was previously constructed at the site as a storm water quality BMP, but no other storm water management facilities are proposed at the SYVRTS site that would contribute to cumulatively significant impacts. Therefore, this exclusion is not applicable.

- (c) Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.**

The project would be constructed at an existing solid waste management facility that has been in operation since 2003. The SYVRTS is located north and east of the closed Foxen Canyon Landfill. There are no unusual circumstances that are present at the site or surrounding area that would result in a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, this exclusion is not applicable.

- (d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.**

The project would be constructed at an existing solid waste management facility that has been in operation since 2003. The SYVRTS is located north and east of the closed Foxen Canyon Landfill. Private land to the east and north of the SYVRTS has been planted with Coast Live Oak and Valley Oak trees that are part of the mitigation requirements for the Santa Ynez Valley Waste Management Plan. Construction of the BMPs would not impact these mitigation areas. Foxen Canyon Road, although not formally designated as a Scenic Highway, is identified as scenic rural road in the Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan. The SYVRTS, including the proposed BMPs, is not visible from Foxen Canyon Road. The project would not result in the removal of any trees, buildings, rock outcroppings or other scenic resources. Therefore, this exclusion is not applicable.

- (e) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.**

The project site is located north and east of the closed Foxen Canyon Landfill. The Foothill Landfill was operated as a Class III municipal landfill. The landfill is not listed as a hazardous waste site. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.**

The project would be constructed at an existing solid waste management facility that has been in operation since 2003. The site is paved and includes areas used for storage and management of co-mingled recyclables, municipal solid waste, green waste and mulch, and buildings used for offices and storage, maintenance and weighing activities. The remaining areas consist of moderately vegetated hillsides, administrative buildings, storm water retention basins and a parking lot. The BMPs would be located in existing disturbed areas of the site. Based on prior environmental documents prepared for the site (90-EIR-14 and 97-SD-02), no archaeological or historical resources are known to occur in the project area. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Nina Danza, Engineer RRWMD

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Department/Division Representative:  Joddi Leipner, Senior Engineering Environmental Planner

Date: July 30, 2018

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Date Filed at Planning and Development:

Date Filed by County Clerk

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