

County of Riverside
Facilities Management
3450 14th St, 2nd Floor, Riverside, CA

FOR COUNTY CLERK USE ONLY

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

February 24, 2025

Project Name: Approval of Third Amendment to License Agreement with Banning Sports Club, Inc, Banning

Project Number: FM042130001500

Project Location: 250 Mias Canyon Road, east of Bluff Street, Banning, California 92220, Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 531-110-005

Description of Project: On October 22, 2019, the County of Riverside (County) approved a License Agreement (License) on behalf of the Probation Department with Banning Sportsman Club (Minute Order 3-9). The License is for the use of a shooting range located at 250 Mias Canyon Road, Banning, California. The shooting range is necessary for training operations of the Probation Department and continues to meet their needs and this Third Amendment to Lease (Amendment) is submitted to approve a two-year lease extension commencing July 1, 2025, and terminating June 30, 2027.

The Third Amendment to the License Agreement is defined as the proposed project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project is for the use of an existing facility and no expansion of the existing facility will occur. The operation of the facility will continue to provide services to the Probation Department. No additional direct or indirect physical environmental impacts are anticipated.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Riverside County

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Riverside County Facilities Management

Exempt Status: State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities Exemption; Section 15061(b) (3), "Common Sense" Exemption. Codified under California Code of Regulations Title 14, Article 5, Section 15061.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The proposed project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA specifically by the State CEQA Guidelines as identified below. The project will not result in any specific or general exceptions to the use of the categorical exemption as detailed under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. The project will not cause an impact to an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern nor would the project involve unusual circumstances that could potentially have a significant effect on the environment. The project would not result in impacts to scenic highways, hazardous waste sites, historic resources, or other sensitive natural environments, or have a cumulative effect to the environment. No significant environmental impacts are anticipated to occur with the Third Amendment to the License Agreement, permitting continued use of an existing facility.

- Section 15301 – Class 1 Existing Facilities Exemption:** This categorical exemption includes the operation, repair, maintenance, leasing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures or facilities, provided the exemption only involves negligible or no expansion of the previous site’s use. The project, as proposed, is limited to the continued use of the existing shooting range facility. The project would not substantially increase or expand the use of the site; use is limited to the extension of term which will result in the continued use of the site in a similar capacity; therefore, the project is exempt as the project meets the scope and intent of the Class 1 Exemption identified in Section 15301, Article 19, Categorical Exemptions of the CEQA Guidelines.
- Section 15061 (b) (3) – “Common Sense” Exemption:** In accordance with CEQA, the use of the Common Sense Exemption is based on the “general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.” State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15061(b) (3). The use of this exemption is appropriate if “it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.” *Ibid*. This determination is an issue of fact and if sufficient evidence exists in the record that the activity cannot have a significant effect on the environment, then the exemption applies and no further evaluation under CEQA is required. See *No Oil, Inc. v. City of Los Angeles* (1974) 13 Cal. 3d 68. The ruling in this case stated that if a project falls within a category exempt by administrative regulation or 'it can be seen with certainty that the activity in question will not have a significant effect on the environment', no further agency evaluation is required. With certainty, there is no possibility that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. The Third Amendment to the License Agreement is limited to an extension of term for continued use of an existing facility which will not expand the facility or increase the capacity or intensity of use of the site. The use and operation of the facility will be substantially similar to the existing use and will not create any new environmental impacts to the surrounding area. No impacts beyond the ongoing, existing use of the site would occur. Therefore, in no way, would the project as proposed have the potential to cause a significant environmental impact and the project is exempt from further CEQA analysis.

Therefore, the County of Riverside Facilities Management hereby concludes that no physical environmental impacts are anticipated to occur and the project as proposed is exempt under CEQA. No further environmental analysis is warranted.

Signed:  **Date:** 2-24-2025

Mike Sullivan
County of Riverside, Facilities Management