Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

13-2025-063

FILED
IMPERIAL COUNTY
Jul 28 2025
CHUCK STOREY, County Clerk
By _____ Deputy Clerk

County Clerk
County of Imperial
940 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243

From: (Public Agency):
County of Imperial
Planning & Development Services
801 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243

POSTED
JUL 28 2025
Imperial County Clerk-Recorder
California

Project Title: Mental Health Triage and Engagement Services Expansion Project

Project Applicant: Imperial County Behavioral Health Services

Project Location – Specific:

202 N. 8th Street, El Centro CA. APN: 053-026-013

Project Location – City: El Centro Project Location – County: Imperial

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Imperial County Behavioral Health Services (ICBHS) is expanding its Mental Health Triage and Engagement Services (MHTES) trough the MHTES Expansion Project (MHTES-EP). The project aims to improve behavioral health care coordination and increase access to services throughout Imperial County, especially in rural areas with limited access to traditional care. A key focus of the expansion is on children and youth, providing dedicated spaces for age-appropriate interventions in crisis situations. The MHTES-EP will enhance facilities like MHTU and Casa Serena, ensuring separate areas for children and youth to receive targeted care. This will include expanding therapeutic rooms and adding new features like sensory walls to support crisis interventions for younger populations. Additionally, the project will increase service capacity to meet the growing demand for children and youth services, which have exceeded expectations in recent years. The goal is to offer alternatives to hospitalization and incarceration by providing community-based, least restrictive care that fosters recovery. The project will also offer in-house and peer support services, helping children and youth stay connected with their communities while receiving the care they need. By expanding services tailored to children and youth, the MHTES-EP will improve behavioral health outcomes and reduce the need for higher levels of care.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Imperial County Planning and Development Services

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Rocio Yee, Planner II

Exempt Status: **(check one)**:

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☐ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:
- ☒ Statutory Exemptions, State Code Number: CA Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5960.3

Reasons why project is exempt:
This project is statutorily exempt from CEQA under WIC Section 5960.3 applicable to a facility project being funded by the California Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program ("BHCIP") funds, that meets all applicable requirements of WIC 5960.3(b), which this Project meets.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jim Minnick Area Code/ Telephone Extension: 442-265-1736

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature: for _____ Date: 07/28/25 Title: ICPDS Assistant Director

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☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for Filing at OPR: _____

Revised 2011