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Riverside County
Facilities Management
3450 14th St., 2nd Floor, Riverside, CA 92501

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

July 15, 2025

Project Name: Blythe County Administrative Center Parking Lot Repaving

Project Number: FM08720014610

Project Location: 260 North Broadway, south of West Barnard Street, Blythe, California 92225; Assessor's Parcel Number (APN): 845-141-003

Description of Project: The Blythe County Administrative Center (CAC) is located at 260 N. Broadway in Blythe, California, 92225. The Blythe CAC Parking Lots are in need of repaving and re-striping and to be brought up to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The scope of work for the Blythe CAC Repaving Project (Project) includes, but is not limited to, grinding, repaving and restriping 62,000 square feet of parking lot and providing three ADA parking locations throughout the facility. The re-pavement of the parking lot at the Blythe CAC facility is identified as the project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). No direct or indirect physical environmental impacts are anticipated from the repaving of the parking lot.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Riverside County

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

Exempt Status: State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15301 Existing Facilities Exemption; Section 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction Exemption, and 15061(b) (3), General Rule or "Common Sense" Exemption, Codified under Title 14, Articles 5 and 19, Sections 15061, and 15301.

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 include unusual circumstances which could have the possibility of having 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 re-pavement of the parking lots at the Blythe CAC facility.

- **Section 15301 (b)–Existing Facilities:** This Class 1 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 re-pavement of the parking lots at the existing Blythe CAC facility. The re-paved parking lots would result in the continued provision public services and would not result in a significant increase in capacity or intensity of use. Therefore, the project is exempt as it meets the scope and intent of the Categorical 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 proposed re-pavement of the parking lots at the Blythe CAC facility will not result in any direct or indirect physical environmental impacts. The repaving of the parking lot would not alter the footprint and is being completed to provide for safe and efficient operation of the public facility. The use of the facility would remain unchanged. 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.

Based upon the identified exemptions above, 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:** 7-15-2025

Mike Sullivan
County of Riverside, Facilities Management