

County of Riverside
Facilities Management
3133 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92507

FOR COUNTY CLERK USE ONLY

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

March 10, 2022

Project Name: Hemet Ryan Airport Taxiway B, Hangar Taxilanes, and East/West Apron Pavement Rehabilitation Project

Project Number: FM05191011913 -HR

Project Location: 4200 Walden Weaver Road, east of Warren Road, Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 456-020-002, Hemet, California, 92545

Description of Project: On February 25, 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved the five-year design and engineering services agreement with C&S Companies for architectural engineering services for the design, construction administration, construction inspection of projects, planning, and environmental services for the County's five airports. The design services for the Hemet Ryan Airport Taxiway B, Hangar Taxilanes and East/West Apron Pavement Project is now complete, and staff requests approval to solicit bids for construction of the project.

The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate the ageing pavement at the Hemet Ryan Airport's Taxiway B, Hangar Taxilanes, and East/West Apron Pavement Project. Taxiway B, adjacent hangar taxilanes, and East/West Apron areas currently exhibit weathering and cracking (block, transverse, and alligator). Portions of the project will be reconstructed, and other areas will receive rehabilitation via mill/overly, crack sealing, or surface area seal coat. No grading of shoulders or improvements outside of the existing pavement limits is anticipated. Following paving or sealing of pavement, all markings will be restored.

The Taxiway B, Hangar Taxilanes, and East/West Apron Pavement Rehabilitation Project is consistent with the Airport's Capital Improvement Program. The project documents have been reviewed and approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and are consistent with current guidelines for General Aviation facilities. The rehabilitation of the Taxilanes, and east/west apron pavement at the Hemet Ryan Airport is identified as the proposed project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The rehabilitation of the airport existing infrastructure will not result in any significant impacts.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Riverside County

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Riverside County Aviation

CEQA Exempt Status: State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 Existing Facilities Exemption, Section 15061(b) (3), General Rule or “Common Sense” Exemption, Codified under Title 14, Article 5 Sections 15061.


NEPA Status: Categorically Excluded under US Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration Order 1050.1E, Categorical Exclusion 5-6.4e Facility Siting, Construction, and Maintenance.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The proposed 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 does the project involve any 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. The replacement and rehabilitation of the taxiways and aprons at the airport would have no effects on the environment.

- **CEQA Section 15301 –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 approval of Assignment of Lease which will allow for the transfer of use of property at Hemet Ryan. The changes are limited to the change in ownership and responsibility for the terms of the Lease. The Assignment Agreement will have the same purpose and substantially similar capacity on the existing facilities at the airport and would be consistent with the existing land use and contractual requirements for the use of the site. 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.
- **CEQA Section 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction:** This Class 2 categorical exemption consists of the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. Under (c), replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity. The project, as proposed, is the replacement and rehabilitation of existing pavement at the Hemet Ryan Airport. The pavement is existing infrastructure at the airport that has degraded under routine use by aircraft. The replacement pavement will be of similar size and capacity on the same footprint. The replacement pavement would have the same purpose as the existing infrastructure. Therefore, the project is exempt as it meets the scope and intent of the Categorical Exemption identified in Section 15302, Article 19, Categorical Exemptions of the CEQA Guidelines.
- **CEQA 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 Assignment Agreement is an administrative function, that is required as part of the terms of the Lease at the existing airport and would result in the continued operation of the airport on the leased premises under a different owner. No significant direct or indirect environmental impacts 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.

- **NEPA FAA Categorical Exclusion Section 5-6.4e:** This category includes the list of CATEXs for FAA actions involving acquisition, repair, replacement, maintenance, or upgrading of grounds, infrastructure, buildings, structures, or facilities that generally are minor in nature. Section (e) includes construction repair, resurfacing, extending, strengthening, or widening of a taxiway, apron, loading ramp or runway safety area or reconstruction, resurfacing, extending, strengthening, or widening of an existing runway. The improvements consist of the repair, resurfacing and restriping of taxilanes and apron areas which are included in this section. The improvements would not alter local traffic levels or increase noise or air quality emissions as no increase in operations would occur with the replacement. No other extraordinary circumstances exist and the Project would meet the scope and intent of the Categorical Exclusion identified in Section 5-6.4e of the FAA Categorical Exclusion.

Based upon the identified exemptions above, the County of Riverside hereby concludes that no physical environmental impacts are anticipated to occur and the project as proposed is exempt under CEQA and excluded under NEAP. No further environmental analysis is warranted.

Signed:  **Date:** 3-10-2022
Mike Sullivan, Senior Environmental Planner
County of Riverside

RIVERSIDE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER

**AUTHORIZATION
TO BILL
BY JOURNAL VOUCHER**

Project Name: Airport Improvement Project, Hemet Ryan Airport

Accounting String: 525440-40710-1910700000- FM05191011913 HR


DATE: March 10, 2022

AGENCY: Riverside County

THIS AUTHORIZES THE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER TO BILL FOR FILING AND HANDLING FEES FOR THE ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENT(S).

NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS INCLUDED: One (1)

AUTHORIZED BY: **Mike Sullivan, Senior Environmental Planner, Facilities Management**

Signature: 

PRESENTED BY: **Michelle Moore, Administrative Services Analyst, TLMA-Aviation**

-TO BE FILLED IN BY COUNTY CLERK-

ACCEPTED BY: -

DATE: -

RECEIPT # (S) -

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County of Riverside
Facilities Management
3133 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92507

Date: March 10, 2022
To: Kiyomi Moore/Josefina Castillo, Office of the County Clerk
From: Mike Sullivan, Senior Environmental Planner, Facilities Management
Subject: **County of Riverside Facilities Management Project # FM05191011913 -HR
Airport Improvement Project at Hemet Ryan Airport**

The Riverside County's Facilities Management's Project Management Office is requesting that you post the attached Notice of Exemption. Attached you will find an authorization to bill by journal voucher for your posting fee.

After posting, please return the document to:

Mail Stop #2600

Attention: Mike Sullivan, Senior Environmental Planner,

Facilities Management,

3133 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92507

**If you have any questions, please contact Mike Sullivan at 955-8009 or email
at msullivan@rivco.org.**

Attachment

cc: file