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Riverside County
Facilities Management
3450 14th Street, Riverside, CA 92501

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

August 1, 2025

Project Name: Riverside County Fire Department Perris Administration Facility Natural Gas Generator and Automatic Transfer Switch

Project Number: FM08270014306

Project Location: 403 East 4th Street, east of South G Street, Perris, CA 92570; Assessor's Parcel Number (APN): 310-082-009

Description of Project: The Riverside County Fire Administration facility is located at 403 E. 4th Street in Perris, California, 92570. The Fire Department supports our local Riverside County residents and businesses and has over 100 fire stations throughout the County that need to remain operational during an emergency and power outage event. The Fire Administration facility is in need of a new natural gas generator and automatic transfer switch to support the facility and keep it running during an emergency. The scope of work for the Fire Admin Generator and Transfer Switch Project (Project) includes, but is not limited to, engineering for installation of generator and automatic transfer switch, installation of a 225kVA/180kW natural gas generator with an outdoor sound attenuated enclosure, installation of outdoor rated 1200A automatic transfer switch, modifications to existing 1200A electrical service, electrical conduits, fittings, supports, wiring, and an upgrade of existing gas meter and piping to the new generator location. The upgrades to the emergency backup power at the Perris Fire Administration facility is defined as the proposed project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The operation of the site will continue to provide public services at the existing facility and will not result in a significant expansion of existing use. 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 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15301 Existing Facilities Exemption; and Section 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 upgrades to the emergency backup power at the Perris Fire Administration facility.

- **Section 15301 (d)–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 upgrades to the emergency backup power at the Perris Fire Administration facility, including the installation of an automatic transfer switch, new natural gas generator, attenuated sound enclosure, and utility infrastructure upgrades are needed to maintain public services in the event of a loss of power at the existing facility. The emergency backup power systems would operate only in emergencies or for periodic testing to ensure the systems are working properly. The improvements to the existing facility to connect the emergency power system would not expand the capacity of the site and would result in the continuation of public services; therefore, the project is exempt as the improvements meet 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 installation of the upgrade to the emergency backup power at the Perris Fire Administration facility will not result in any direct or indirect physical environmental impacts.

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:** 8-1-25

Mike Sullivan,
County of Riverside, Facilities Management