

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

DATE: August 14, 2025

TO: County Clerk, County of Riverside (County)

PROJECT CASE NO/TITLE: NOE 25-05: Third Amendment to the Master Lease Between Riverside County and CR&R for the Anza Transfer Station

PROJECT LOCATION: Anza Transfer Station
40329 Terwilliger Road, Anza, CA 92539

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Approval of the Third Amendment to the Master Lease for the Anza Transfer Station (Project) has been prepared to account for a new lease term (runs concurrent with the Agreement for Franchise Area #8) and minor operational and administrative changes for the Anza Transfer Station

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT: County of Riverside (County)

PROJECT SPONSOR: Department of Waste Resources (RCDWR)

The Project is 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 categorical exemptions as detailed under State CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2. The Project will not cause any impacts to scenic resources, historic resources, or unique sensitive environments. Further, no unusual circumstances or potential cumulative impacts would occur that may reasonably create a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impact.

EXEMPT STATUS:

- ☐ Ministerial
- ☐ Declared Emergency
- ☐ Emergency Project
- ☐ Statutory Exemption:
- ☒ Categorical Exemption

Section 15061(b)(3) – General Rule Exemption
Section 15301 – Existing Facilities

- ☒ Other Exemption:

REASONS FOR EXEMPTION:

Section 15061(b)(3) - General Rule Exemption

The activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects, which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.

This Project is exempt under Section 15061(b)(3) because:

The Project addresses a new lease term (runs concurrent with Franchise Area 8) and minor operational and administrative changes for the Anza Transfer Station. The new minor changes to the operations included in the amendment's new lease term do not involve site area expansion.

The amendment would not affect any sensitive species, protected habitat, or archaeological/cultural resources for the work planned of the minor operational and administrative changes at the site because they are consistent with on-going site operations.

Based upon the entire record, the amendment and new lease term would not result in the potential for any significant effect on the environment. The project does not propose any physical changes, grading, or construction, that is not expected to result in any new or significant environmental impacts. This determination is an issue of fact and sufficient evidence exists in the record that the activity will not have a significant effect on the environment. As such, the exemption applies and no further evaluation under CEQA is required. See *Muzzy Ranch Co. v. Solano County Airport Land Use Comm'n* (2007) 41 Cal. 4th 372.

Section 15301, Existing Facilities

Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination.

This project is exempt under Section 15301 because:

The Project addresses a new lease term (runs concurrent with the Agreement for Franchise Area 8) and minor operational and administrative changes for the Anza Transfer Station, which is an existing facility, involving no expansion of uses beyond that existing at the time the facility was last approved. As discussed, the third amendment to the master lease merely consists revising the lease term and minor changes that improve the existing operations serving the same function and use. These minor changes to the existing permitted operations will not increase the capacity or physical footprint of the facility.

No significant environmental impacts are anticipated. This third amendment will maintain environmental conditions at the Project site. Therefore, the third amendment to the master lease meets the scope and intent of the Class 1 Categorical Exemption.

FINDINGS:

1. Based upon the identified exemptions and justifications above, the RCDWR, on behalf of the County, 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.
2. The proposed Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3), and categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301.
3. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this Project would have a direct, indirect, or cumulatively significant effect on the environment; therefore, the activity is exempt under CEQA as previously identified.

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If there are any questions regarding the above matter, I can be reached at (951) 486-3395.

Andy Cortez, General Manager - Chief Engineer
Riverside County Department of Waste Resources

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Title: Assistant Planner

Date: August 14, 2025

DM# 359506