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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

October 8, 2025

Project Name: Riverside University Health System – Public Health Administration Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (RUHS-PH Admin HVAC) Upgrade Project

Project Number: FM08220013714

Project Locations: 4065 County Circle, north of Hole Street, Riverside, California, 92503; Assessor's Parcel Number (APN): 145-200-017

Description of Project: The Riverside University Health System – Public Health Administration facility is located at 4065 County Circle Drive in Riverside and provides a variety of services to our county residents. The facility has been experiencing continual Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) issues and the systems are no longer cost-effective to maintain. The HVAC system is end of life and over 35 years old and Facilities Management (FM) recommends the equipment be upgraded with energy-efficient equipment that will provide long term cost savings to the County. The scope of work for the RUHS-PH HVAC Upgrade Project (Project) includes but is not limited to: replacement of four (4) air handler systems, exhaust fans and associated ductwork, replacement of heat exchangers, evaporator, coils, condensers, combustion chambers, blower motor and ceiling grills, all of which are to be compatible with existing equipment and systems.

The upgrade to the HVAC system at the RUHS-PH Admin 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 upgrade to the HVAC system at the RUHS-PH Admin 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 upgrade to the HVAC system at the RUHS-PH Admin facility is needed to maintain an appropriate level of comfort for staff and patrons at the existing facility. The improvements to the existing mechanical system to maintain comfort are interior alteration to existing equipment within the facility 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 upgrade to the HVAC system at the RUHS-PH Admin facility office 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:** 10-9-2025

Mike Sullivan,
County of Riverside, Facilities Management