

ATTACHMENT B: NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Case No. 22GPA-00000-00003

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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
FROM: Zoë Carlson, Senior Planner
Planning and Development Department

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 as defined in the State and County of Santa Barbara (County) guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN(s): Not applicable.

Case No.: 22GPA-00000-00003

Location: Unincorporated communities of Cuyama, New Cuyama, Ventucopa, Sisquoc, Casmalia, Los Alamos, and Isla Vista.

Project Title: Environmental Justice Element of the Comprehensive Plan

Project Description: Case No. 22GPA-00000-00003 amends the Comprehensive Plan to adopt the new Environmental Justice Element. Government Code Section 65302 requires the County of Santa Barbara to adopt an Environmental Justice Element (EJE) of the Comprehensive Plan. The EJE includes goals, policies, and objectives to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by means that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of pollution exposure, including the improvement of air quality, and the promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity. The EJE also includes policies and objectives that promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process and prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities. The County identified seven disadvantaged communities, referred to as Environmental Justice Communities (EJCs): Cuyama, New Cuyama, Ventucopa, Sisquoc, Casmalia, Los Alamos, and Isla Vista. The proposed amendment does not enable any development.

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency
- No Possibility of Significant Effect

Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section: CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3).

Reasons to support exemption findings: The EJE is a research, engagement, and policy-based element. The EJE identifies communities that meet the definition of EJC and discusses their needs related to public services and facilities, physical activity, food access, housing quality, and pollution within each EJC. The element includes new policies, objectives, and implementing actions, but not any projects. No physical development is proposed or approved as part of this project, and no changes in land use or zoning regulations are proposed, so no significant environmental impacts would occur as a result of the proposed project. The project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), which states that “the activity is covered by the common sense exemption 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.”

Any projects to address identified deficiencies or that otherwise occur in furtherance of the goals, policies, and objectives of this element will be subject to compliance with CEQA, if applicable. Therefore, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this project may have a significant effect on the environment, and it is not subject to CEQA according to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

_____ 1/26/2026
Department/Division Representative Date

Acceptance Date (date of final action on project): _____

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____