

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Los Angeles

12400 Imperial Highway

Norwalk, CA 90650

From: (Public Agency): City of Santa Monica

1685 Main Street

Santa Monica, CA 90401

(Address)

Project Title: License Agreement with Goldenvoice

Project Applicant: City of Santa Monica

Project Location - Specific:

Santa Monica Beach, Santa Monica Pier parking deck, and portions of adjacent beach

Project Location - City: Santa Monica

Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project consists of a license agreement with Goldenvoice to host a music festival event on Santa Monica Beach in September 2026. The inaugural concept envisions a two-day festival featuring musical artists, curated food and beverage offerings, festival and artist merchandise, art installations, partnership activations, and guest amenities. The event footprint would utilize the Santa Monica beach, the Santa Monica Pier Parking Deck, and portions of adjacent beach parking lots.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Santa Monica

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Santa Monica

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Sections 15301, 15303, 15304, 15311, 15323
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

See attached.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Rachel Kwok

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (310) 458 8341

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ▪ Yes No

Signature: *Rachel Kwok* Date: 4/15/26 Title: Environmental Planner

▪ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Reasons Why Project is Exempt

The Goldenvoice event is categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15301 (Class 1 – Existing Facilities), Section 15303 (Class 3 - New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land), Section 15311 (Class 11 - Accessory Structures), and Section 15323 (Normal Operations of Existing Facilities for Public Gathering) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Section 15301 of CEQA Guidelines exempts the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, 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. The Goldenvoice event would not expand existing structures, facilities, or topographical features. The existing Santa Monica beach, Pier deck, and parking lot would be utilized for this temporary event would be restored to their original conditions. Therefore, the event is exempt under Section 15301.

Section 15303 of CEQA Guidelines exempts the construction and location of limited numbers of new small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure. Projects that fall into this class of exemption include accessory (appurtenant) structures including garages, carports, patios, swimming pools, and fences. The Goldenvoice event would include the installation of temporary equipment and facilities that would be accessory structures. These accessory structures would be temporary in nature. Therefore, the event is exempt under Section 15303.

Section 15304 of CEQA Guidelines exempts minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. This includes minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effects on the environment. The Goldenvoice event is two-day special event on the existing beach, Pier deck, and portions of the beach parking lot. The land would be restored to original condition after the event concludes. Therefore, the Goldenvoice event is exempt under Section 15304.

Section 15311 of CEQA Guidelines exempts the construction, or placement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities. Projects that fall into this class of exemption include construction, or placement of minor structures

accessory to (appurtenant to) existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities, including but not limited to: (c) Placement of seasonal or temporary use items such as lifeguard towers, mobile food units, portable restrooms, or similar items in generally the same locations from time to time in publicly owned parks, stadiums, or other facilities designed for public use. The Goldenvoice event would include the installation of temporary equipment and facilities that would be accessory structures. Therefore, the event is exempt under Section 15311.

Section 15323 of CEQA Guidelines exempts normal operations of existing facilities for public gatherings for which the facilities were designed, where there is a past history of the facility being used for the same or similar kind of purpose. "Past history" shall mean that the same or similar kind of activity has been occurring for at least three years and that there is a reasonable expectation that the future occurrence of the activity would not represent a change in the operation of the facility. The existing Santa Monica Beach, Pier, and parking lot has been regularly utilized for special events and activities for more than thirty-five years, including the Twilight Concert Series and the LA Opera at the Beach. Therefore, the Goldenvoice music festival is considered normal operations and uses of the existing Pier and surrounding beach area, under Section 15323.