

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**DATE:** April 28, 2026

**TO:** County Clerk, County of Riverside (County)

**PROJECT CASE NO/TITLE:** NOE 26-03: On-call Site Improvements at Riverside County Landfills

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Badlands Landfill, located at 31125 Ironwood Avenue, Moreno Valley, CA; and, Lamb Canyon Landfill, located at 16411 Lamb Canyon Road, Beaumont, CA.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The proposed Project involves the County of Riverside (County) approving contract documents for an on-call contract to provide necessary maintenance and drainage site improvements and two earthwork projects at the Badlands Landfill and Lamb Canyon Landfill.

**PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT:** County of Riverside (County)

**PROJECT SPONSORS:** 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 15301, Existing Facilities; 15302, Replacement and Reconstruction; 15303, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures; 15304, Minor Alterations to Land**  
**Section 15061(b)(3), General Rule Exemption**

- 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 proposes to conduct maintenance and drainage site improvements on an on-call basis at the Badlands Landfill and Lamb Canyon Landfill. As part of the National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) statewide general permit to regulate industrial storm water discharges, the RCDWR is responsible for the installation and maintenance of drainage structures that collect and channel runoff from the landfill. In addition to the onsite drainage improvements and on-call work, two earthwork projects are included in the contract documents, one at each site. The Project would not have a direct, indirect, or cumulatively significant effect on the environment or environmental resources. As such, the Project meets the scope and intent of Section 15061(b)(3), General Rule Exemption.

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. 4<sup>th</sup> 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 proposes to conduct maintenance and drainage site improvements of existing facilities and/or structures on an on-call basis at the Badlands Landfill and Lamb Canyon Landfill. Earthwork improvements at the Lamb Canyon Sanitary Landfill consist of the remediation of a landslide on an existing native slope. Earthwork improvements at the Badlands Sanitary Landfill consist of the vertical and horizontal expansion of the Northwest Berm adjacent to the Phase 1 Fill, within an existing permitted area; this improvement extends the service life of the Phase 1 disposal area under existing approvals. As such, the Project is found not to affect any environmental resources; therefore, the Project meets the scope and intent of Section 15301, Categorical Exemption.

**Section 15302, Replacement and Reconstruction**

Class 2 consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced.

**This project is exempt under Section 15302 because:**

The Project proposes to conduct maintenance and drainage site improvements of existing facilities and/or structures on an on-call basis at the Badlands Landfill and Lamb Canyon Landfill. Earthwork improvements at the Lamb Canyon and Badlands Sanitary Landfills will occur in an existing permitted area. Therefore, the Project as proposed meets the scope and intent of the Class 2 Categorical Exemption.

**15303, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures**

Class 3 consists of 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.

**This project is exempt under Section 15303 because:**

The Project proposes to request on-call monitoring and maintenance where repairs or new construction is required, this includes earthwork excavation including hauling and stockpiling of daily cover material, drainage improvements, placement of engineered fill, construction of earthen berms, erosion and sedimentation controls, rehabilitation and construction of asphalt concrete roadways, placement of aggregate base material, refuse excavation, and greenwaste application. This work would not have a direct, indirect, or cumulatively significant effect on the environment. The Project as proposed meets the scope and intent of the Class 3 Categorical Exemption.

**15304, Minor Alterations to Land**

Class 4 consists of 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 or agricultural purposes.

**This project is exempt under Section 15304 because:**

The Project proposes to request on-call monitoring and maintenance which may result in minor alterations to existing land conditions. Due to the previous disturbance and current use of the site, no healthy, mature, scenic trees are present in the Project area. Therefore, the Project as proposed meets the scope and intent of the Class 4 Categorical Exemption.

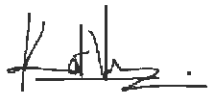
**FINDINGS:**

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 Section 15061(b)(3), and categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15301, 15302, 15303, and 15304.
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) 486-3200.

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

By:   
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Katherine Veliz

Title: Senior Planner  
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Date: April 28, 2026  
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