



County of Riverside
TLMA Aviation
4080 Lemon Street, 14th Floor,
Riverside, CA 92501

FOR COUNTY CLERK USE ONLY

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

July 13, 2026

Project Name: Approval of the Plans and Specifications and Authorization to Advertise for Bids for the Installation of Primary Apron Mast Lighting and Control Access Gate Phase II Construction Project at Blythe Airport (BLH); District 4

Project Location: Blythe Airport, 17240 Hobsonway, Bythe CA 92225

Description of Project: On February 25, 2025, the Board of Supervisors approved the five-year design and engineering services agreement with Mead and Hunt for airport engineering, architectural, planning and environmental services which includes the design, construction administration, construction inspection of projects, planning and environmental services for the County's five airports. The design services for the Blythe Airport's Installation of Primary Apron Mast Lighting and Control Access Gate Project are now complete, and staff request approval to solicit bids for construction of the project.

The Blythe Airport has Runway 8-26 and 17-35, with partial parallel taxiways serving each runway. On the southeast corner of the Runway intersection is the Airport's only apron, so all transient or parked Aircraft must come to this location. There is no Airport perimeter road with public street access, so vehicles entering or using the Airport must pass through the apron as well. Currently, to access the airport is through two pad-locked swinging gates along the southwest and southeast edges of the apron.

The purpose of this project is to enhance safety by replacing both gates with a digital keypad, add low-mast lighting at select locations along the perimeter of the apron, and at the fueling facility to approve visibility issues during transient nighttime operations.

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) according to the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Class 1 Existing Facilities Exemption; Section 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction; and Section 15061 (b)(3) "Common Sense" Exemption, and categorically excluded from NEPA US Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration Order 1050.1E, Categorical Exclusion 5-6.4e Facility Siting, Construction, and Maintenance. The Project will not have any impact on an

environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern, nor will the Project include unusual circumstances which would have a potentially significant effect on the environment.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Riverside County Transportation and Land Management Agency (TLMA) Aviation Division

Exempt Status: State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Class I, Existing Facilities Exemption; Section 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction; Section 15061(b) (3), General Rule or "Common Sense" Exemption. Codified under California Code of Regulations Title 14, Article 5, Section 15061.

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 involve unusual circumstances that could potentially have 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 as a result of this project.

- **Section 15301- Class 1 Existing Facilities Exemption:** This 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 project, as proposed, is limited to lighting improvements and the installation of an access control system at the entry gates to the Blythe Airport. The project will not require physical modifications to the existing sites which would increase or expand the use of the sites, and is limited to the continued use of the sites in a similar capacity; therefore, the project is exempt as the project meets the scope and intent of the Class 1 Exemption identified in Section 15301, Article 19, Categorical Exemptions of the CEQA Guidelines.
- **Section 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction:** This Class 2 categorical exemption consists of the 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. Under (c), replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity. The project, as proposed, is the replacement and rehabilitation of existing lighting at the airport. The access control system will be installed at existing access gates. Therefore, the project is exempt as it meets the scope and intent of the Categorical Exemption identified in Section 15302, 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 proposed project will not result in any direct or indirect physical environmental impacts. The use and operation of the airports will be substantially similar to the existing use and will not create any new environmental impacts to the surrounding area. No impacts beyond the ongoing, existing use of the sites would occur. Therefore, in no way, would the project as proposed have the potential to cause a significant environmental impact and the project is exempt from further CEQA analysis.

Signature: Jose Ruiz
Jose Ruiz

Date: 7.13.2026

Real Estate Manager
County of Riverside TLMA-Aviation Division

RIVERSIDE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER

**AUTHORIZATION TO BILL
BY JOURNAL VOUCHER**

Project Name: Approval of the Plans and Specifications and Authorization to Advertise for Bids for the Installation of Primary Apron Mast Lighting and Control Access Gate Phase II Construction Project at Blythe Airport (BLH); District 4

Accounting String: 523230-40710-1910700000 - ED19100001

DATE: July 13, 2026

AGENCY: Riverside County

THIS AUTHORIZES THE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER TO BILL FOR FILING AND HANDLING FEES FOR THE ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENT(S).

NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS INCLUDED: One (1)

AUTHORIZED AND PRESENTED BY: Jose Ruiz, Real Estate Manager, TLMA-Aviation

Signature: Jose Ruiz

-TO BE FILLED IN BY COUNTY CLERK-
ACCEPTED BY:

DATE:

RECEIPT # (S)