

County of Riverside  
Facilities Management  
3450 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Riverside, CA 92501

FOR COUNTY CLERK USE ONLY

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

April 4, 2024

**Project Name:** Riverside County Sheriff's Office (RSO) Administrative Facility Lease Agreement with CHWV RIV, LLC. Riverside

**Project Number:** FM0412500020

**Project Location:** 3650 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Riverside, California, 92501; Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 219-022-024

**Description of Project:** On November 7, 2023, per M.O. 3.31, the Board approved, In-Principle, the search for a new RSO Administrative Facility (Administrative Facility) to accommodate RSO's request to vacate the county-owned building located at 1500 Castellano Road in Jurupa Valley. Due to age, the county-owned building needs substantial renovation and is no longer efficient for the RSO to operate.

Facilities Management Real Estate Division (FM-RE) subsequently released a Request for Proposal for the Downtown Riverside area and located a suitable office space to serve as the new Administrative Facility.

Negotiations were completed and a Lease is being sought for approval. Space planning was completed for full interior tenant improvements which will be reimbursed to the Lessor upon substantial completion. Approval of the 10-year Lease Agreement is identified as the proposed project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed project would involve the use of existing office building. No expansion of the footprint or increase in capacity of use would occur as a result of the Lease Agreement. The operation of the facility will result in the use of an existing building and 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 CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities Exemption; 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 with the Lease Agreement and interior tenant improvements.

- **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 a lease agreement for continued use of an existing office building with interior improvements to make the space functional for RSO. The project will not substantially increase or expand the use of the site and is limited to the continued use of the office building 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 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 Lease Agreement will not result in any direct or indirect physical environmental impacts. The use and operation of the facility will continue to operate as an existing office use and will not create any new environmental impacts to the surrounding area. No impacts beyond the ongoing, existing use of the site 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.

Therefore, 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:** 4-4-2024  
Mike Sullivan,  
County of Riverside, Facilities Management