

County of Riverside
Facilities Management
3450 14th St, Riverside, CA

FOR COUNTY CLERK USE ONLY

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

May 3, 2024

Project Name: Approval of the Option to Extend Lease with Robert Ramos and Lucia Ramos, at the Riverside University Health System Department of Public Health (RUHS-PH) Women Infants and Children Program (WIC) Blythe

Project Number: FM042134002300

Project Location: 1293 West Hobson Way, Suite 1, west of North Carlton Avenue, Blythe, CA 92225, California Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 836-180-045

Description of Project: The County of Riverside has been under lease at 1293 West Hobson Way, Suite 1, Blythe, CA 92225 (Premises) since May 19, 2020, this facility continues to meet the needs of the Department of Public Health/WIC Program and the County intends to execute its option to extend the Lease term for an additional five (5) years and with this Letter will properly give sixty (60) day notice to Lessor..

The Option to extend the Lease Agreement is defined as the proposed project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project is the continuation of an existing lease, and no physical effects would occur as a result of the extension. 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 Option to extend the Lease Agreement.

- **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 the extension of term for a lease agreement. The extension of term would not require any expansion of public services and facilities; 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 Option to extend the Lease Agreement will not result in any direct or indirect physical environmental impacts. No change will occur to the ongoing use of the facility and no new environmental impacts to the surrounding area 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:** 5-3-2024
Mike Sullivan,
County of Riverside, Facilities Management