

Riverside County
Facilities Management
3450 14th Street, Riverside, CA 92501

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

June 13, 2024

Project Name: Riverside County Innovation Center (RCIC) Data Center Tenant Improvement Project, Riverside,

Project Number: FM08740013465

Project Locations: 3450 14th Street, west of Lime Street, Riverside, California; Assessor's Parcel Number (APN): 219-330-035

Description of Project: The RCIC is located at 3450 14th Street. in Riverside, California, 92501 and is occupied by Facilities Management (FM), Riverside Information Technology (RCIT) and Purchasing Departments. RCIT is looking to relocate the existing RC3 Data Center to a new location in Riverside County that will optimize and consolidate data centers in fewer locations. The design and construction (build-out) of a new data center within existing areas on the ground floor of the RCIC building located at 3450 14th Street in Riverside, California, 92501 will allow RCIT better operational control. The new data center will be constructed within a total combined area of approximately 6,000 to 8,000 square feet. The scope of work for the RCIT Data Center TI Project includes but is not limited to: mechanical, electrical, and plumbing equipment & infrastructure, uninterrupted power supply system, telecommunications equipment & infrastructure, data equipment & infrastructure, emergency power generator(s) system, redundant building & equipment cooling system, electronic security system, fire suppression system, data warehouse interior and or exterior security mantrap(s), Telco closet, receiving area, and UPS room. The incorporation of a data center into the RCIC facility is identified as the proposed project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The operation of the facility will continue to provide public services and will not result in an expansion of existing use. 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 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15301 Existing Facilities Exemption; Section 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction Exemption, and Section and 15061(b) (3), General Rule or "Common Sense" Exemption, Codified under Title 14, Articles 5 and 19, Sections 15061, 15301, and 15302.

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 include unusual circumstances which could have the possibility of having 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 Data Center tenant improvements at the RCIC.

- Section 15301 –Existing Facilities:** This Class 1 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 interior alterations to the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing equipment & infrastructure, uninterrupted power supply system, telecommunications equipment & infrastructure, data equipment & infrastructure, emergency power generator(s) system, redundant building & equipment cooling system, electronic security system, fire suppression system, data warehouse interior and or exterior security mantrap(s), Telco closet, receiving area, and UPS room at the RCIC to incorporate a Data Center within the existing building footprint.. The use of the facility would continue to provide public services and would not result in a significant increase in capacity or intensity of use. Therefore, the project is exempt as it meets the scope and intent of the Categorical 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 improvements to accommodate a Data Center within the existing RCIT will not result in any direct or indirect physical environmental impacts. The use of the facility would remain unchanged, continuing to provide public services. 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.

Based upon the identified exemptions above, 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: 6-13-2024

Mike Sullivan
 County of Riverside, Facilities Management