

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:** California Highway Patrol  
601 N. 7th Street, Building B  
Sacramento, CA 95811

**Project Title:** CHP Statewide Advanced Planning - Acquisition

**Project Location - Specific:** Mercy Springs Road and G Street

**Project Location - City:** Los Banos

**Project Location - County:** Merced

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**

CHP proposes to acquire approximately 3.5 acres of property located on Mercy Springs Road and G Street next to the Los Banos Courthouse in the town of Los Banos, Merced County, California. The property is proposed to be used for the relocation and replacement of the CHP Los Banos Area Office. The current building and service structures are inadequate to house the number of employees, related equipment, and other support needs. CHP has not approved any development or use of the site. Future actions, to include development of the property, will undergo complete environmental review as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** California Highway Patrol (CHP)

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Paul Chambers, Project Director III, DGS-RESA, (916)375-4516

**Exempt Status:** Section 15601 (b)(3), General Rule

**Why is Project Exempt:**

The "general rule" states "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 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". Land acquisition agreements do not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Future use of the site is conditioned upon full CEQA compliance per CCR title 14 section 15004(b)(2)(A), which states prior to completion of CEQA "agencies may designate a preferred site for CEQA review and may enter into land acquisition agreements when the agency has conditioned the agency's future use of the site on CEQA compliance."

**Contact Person:** Ken Roberts, Assistant Chief, Administration Services Division

**Phone Number:** (916) 843-3500

**Signature:**



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Signed by Lead Agency