

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

FOR COUNTY CLERK USE ONLY

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

June 25, 2024

**Project Name:** Approval of the First Amendment to Lease Agreement with Judicial Council of California, Palm Springs

**Project Number:** FM047551002500

**Project Location:** 3255 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Suite 1, west of El Cielo Road, Palm Springs, California; APN 502-210-017

**Description of Project:** On October 2, 2018, the County of Riverside (County) entered into a Lease with the Judicial Council of California for the benefit of the Superior Court of California (Court), for space at the Palm Springs Courthouse located at 3255 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Suite 1, Palm Springs. The lease allowed for three successive optional renewal terms all of which were utilized. This First Amendment will grant Court an additional twenty-four-month term with an additional three optional extension terms of twelve months each.

Facilities Management has negotiated this First Amendment to Lease Agreement with Court for a two-year term, updated the language to current County standards and accurately delineated the roles and responsibilities between the County and Court. The First Amendment to the Lease Agreement with the Court is identified as the proposed project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed project would not result in an increase in capacity or physical expansion. No significant physical changes would occur as a result of the First Amendment.

**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 First Amendment to 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 First Amendment to the Lease Agreement is a contractual action to permit the continued use of the existing Courthouse facility. No increase in building footprint or substantial increase in capacity would be created by the project. 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 First Amendment to the Lease Agreement will not result in any direct or indirect physical environmental impacts. The use and operation of the facility 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 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:** 6-24-2024  
 Mike Sullivan  
 County of Riverside, Facilities Management

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER**

**AUTHORIZATION  
TO BILL  
BY JOURNAL VOUCHER**

**Project Name: Palm Springs Courthouse First Amendment to Lease Agreement with  
Judicial Council of California, Palm Springs**

**Accounting String: 524830-47220-7200400000 - FM047551002500**

DATE: June 24, 2024

AGENCY: Riverside County Facilities Management

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 BY: **Mike Sullivan, Facilities Management**

Signature: 

PRESENTED BY: **James Morgan, Real Property Agent III, Facilities Management**

-TO BE FILLED IN BY COUNTY CLERK-

ACCEPTED BY: -

DATE: -

RECEIPT # (S) -

.

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

Date: June 24, 2024  
To: Office of the County Clerk  
From: Mike Sullivan, Facilities Management  
Subject: **County of Riverside Facilities Management Project # FM047551002500**  
Palm Springs Courthouse First Amendment to Lease Agreement with Judicial  
Council of California, Palm Springs

Riverside County Facilities Management is requesting that you post the attached Notice of Exemption. Attached you will find an authorization to bill by journal voucher for your posting fee.

**After posting, please return the document to:**

**Mail Stop #2600**  
**Attention: Mike Sullivan,**  
**Facilities Management,**  
**3450 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 303, Riverside, CA 92501**

**If you have any questions, please contact Mike Sullivan at 955-8009 or email at [msullivan@rivco.org](mailto:msullivan@rivco.org).**

Attachment

cc: file