

County of Riverside  
Facilities Management-PMO  
3450 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 2nd Floor, Riverside, CA

FOR COUNTY CLERK USE ONLY

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

August 3, 2023

**Project Name:** Approval of License Agreement with City of Blythe

**Project Number:** FM042134002000

**Project Location:** 445 North Broadway, south of West Chanslor Way, Blythe, California 92225, Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 845-052-001

**Description of Project:** The Riverside County Office on Aging provides Senior Nutrition and Fit After 50 exercise programs at the City of Blythe Community Center (Center) located at 445 North Broadway, Blythe, California. Approximately sixty meals are served to seniors every weekday and an additional thirty meals are served through the homebound delivery program. Office on Aging has exclusive use of the Center between the hours of 6:30 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, to provide meals and senior programs. Office on Aging uses the Center's banquet room, kitchen, common area restrooms and an office and pantry storage rooms. The Center continues to provide the space required for Office on Aging to continue to provide the various programs for the residents within this region.

To assist Office on Aging in finding efficiencies and cost savings, Facilities Management- Real Estate (FM-RE) has negotiated a new three-year License Agreement (Agreement) in which the City and County have agreed to continue to share the costs of the operating expenses. Office on Aging will continue to pay 60 percent of the utilities and provide their own custodial and paper products. This ongoing partnership and sharing of the costs will allow the City to keep the rental rate at a minimum, which will allow Office on Aging to continue the senior citizen programs for the community.

The County has licensed the premises for senior citizen programs since September 1, 2014. The existing license agreement was approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 10, 2018 (M.O. #3.10) and expired on June 30, 2020. The combined cumulative years of previous license agreements exceed the delegated authority as set forth in Section 7 of Riverside County Ordinance No. 861, thus necessitating Board approval for the License Agreement. The License Agreement with the City of Blythe is defined as the proposed project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project is the extension of an existing lease; no expansion of existing facilities or change in land use will occur. 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), "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 License 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 a three-year extension of term for an existing facility. The term extension 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 proposed License Agreement will not result in any direct or indirect physical environmental impacts. The direct effects from the extension of term of the License Agreement will result in the continued use of the building by the County. 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:** 8-3-2023  
Mike Sullivan, Senior Environmental Planner  
County of Riverside, Facilities Management