



one COUNTY one FUTURE

2024 CEQA Transmittal Memorandum

County of Santa Barbara - Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

105 E. Anapamu St. Room 407 • Santa Barbara • CA • 93101

(805) 568-2240

Complete this form when filing a Notice of Determination (Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, Environmental Impact Report) or Notice of Exemption.

A scanned copy of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Receipt, Transmittal Memorandum and the CEQA filing including the date/time of posting will be emailed to the Lead Agency and Project Applicant. If you would like a return copy, please submit an extra copy along with a pre-addressed, stamped envelope.

Contact Person Andrew Raaf		Phone 805-568-3445	
Lead Agency Santa Barbara County Flood Control & Water Conservation District		Lead Agency Email asraaf@countyofsb.org	
Project Title USGS Cooperative Stream Gauge Monitoring Program FY 2024-25			
Project Applicant Shawn Johnson	Email sjohnso@countyofsb.org	Phone (805) 568-3452	
Project Applicant Address 130 E. Victoria Street, STE 200	City Santa Barbara	State CA	Zip 93101

DOCUMENT BEING FILED:

- Notice of Determination - Environmental Impact Report (EIR)\$0.00
 - 2024 Filing Fee\$4,051.25
 - Previously Paid (must attach receipt) \$0.00
 - No Effect Determination (must be attached)..... \$0.00

Environmental Filing Fees will be collected *only* for projects that are approved. The Applicant must attest to the following:

- This project has been approved. Date of Approval: Click or tap to enter a date.

- Notice of Determination - Negative Declaration (ND) or Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).....\$0.00
 - 2024 Filing Fee \$2,916.75
 - Previously Paid (must attach receipt) \$0.00
 - No Effect Determination (must be attached)..... \$0.00

Environmental Filing Fees will be collected *only* for projects that are approved. The Applicant must attest to the following:

- This project has been approved. Date of Approval: Click or tap to enter a date.

- Notice of Exemption.....\$0.00

- County Administrative Handling Fee (required for all filings, effective 7/19/18)\$50.00

TOTAL: \$ 50.00

PAYMENT METHOD: ALL APPLICABLE FEES MUST BE PAID AT THE TIME OF FILING

- Cash
- Credit
In person only
- Check # _____
- Journal Entry # _____
In FIN send to 'COB CEQA' in CEO Dept

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

RECEIVED

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors 2024 SEP 11 A 9:51

FROM: Santa Barbara County Flood Control District and Water Conservation District

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN: NA

Case No.: NA

Location: Santa Barbara County

Project Title: USGS Cooperative Stream and Groundwater Monitoring Program

Project Description: This Joint Funding program between the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) provides for a cooperative and cost sharing water resources data collecting program in Santa Barbara County. Streamflow measurements throughout the County are monitored in accordance with this program which has been in effect for decades. The data collected is used for a myriad of purposes including facilities design, flood warning, climate studies, hydrologic modeling and reservoir operations studies among other purposes.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the United States Geological Survey

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: CEQA Article 19, Categorical Exemption, Section 15306 (Class 6) Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities.

Reasons to support exemption findings: The USGS Cooperative Monitoring Program provides information and data regarding surface water throughout the County. Such data may be used to protect natural resources and the environment. The program results in no recommendations regarding future actions or policies and the County has not approved, adopted, or funded any future actions as a result of the program. The

program does not result in a serious or major disturbance to any environmental resource. Therefore, the above listed exemption applies to this action.

There is no substantial evidence that there are unusual circumstances (including future activities) resulting in (or which might reasonably result in) significant impacts which threaten the environment. The exceptions to the categorical exemptions pursuant to Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines are:

- (a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located -- a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.**

The program utilizes gages previously installed or existing stream flow monitoring stations. Therefore, the program results in no physical disturbance to the environment. The installation of monitoring wells by the USGS is categorically exempt from CEQA requirements as defined by Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 19, Section 15306 which addresses basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

- (b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.**

There are no significant incremental or measurable cumulative impacts for the Cooperative Monitoring Program. Therefore, this exception to the Categorical Exemption is not applicable to the proposed project.

- (c) Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.**

The Cooperative Monitoring Program is for informational purposes only and will have no significant effect on the environment. All wells and gaging stations necessary for the study have been previously installed or are pre-existing. Therefore, there is no reasonable possibility that the program will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

- (d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited**

to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.

The Cooperative Monitoring Program does not result in the installation of any facilities that are viewable from any scenic highway area. Therefore, this exception to the Categorical Exemption is not applicable.

- (e) **Hazardous Waste Sites.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

The Cooperative Monitoring Program is not located on a Hazardous Waste site. Therefore, this exception to the Categorical Exemption is not applicable to the proposed project.

- (f) **Historical Resources.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The Cooperative Monitoring Program will not result in any structural or physical changes that would impact any historical resources. Therefore, this exception to the exemption does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Shawn Johnson Phone #: 805 568-3440

Department/Division Representative: *Andrew Reed* Date: *8-6-2024*

NOTE: A copy of this document must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board after project approval to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenges.