

**Riverside County**  
**Facilities Management**  
3450 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Riverside, CA 92501

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

August 19, 2024

**Project Name:** Indio Juvenile Hall Parking Lot Renovation Project

**Project Number:** FM08260012578

**Project Location:** 47665 Oasis Street, south of Doctor Carreon Boulevard, Indio, California 92201; Assessor's Parcel Number (APN): 614-150-034

**Description of Project:** The Indio Juvenile Hall Facility is located at 47665 Oasis Street in Indio, CA 92201. The parking lot is in disrepair and does not meet current building codes or safety standards. The scope of work for the renovation of the parking lot includes, but is not limited to, architectural design and engineering of the parking space layout, walkways, site security and lighting.

On June 25, 2024, Item 3.20, the Board approved a pre-qualified list of architectural and engineering and professional consulting firms to be retained on an as-needed basis. Due to their related experience, Facilities Management (FM) has selected STK Architecture, Inc. (STK) from the pre-qualified list to provide architectural design services and consulting engineering services for the Indio Juvenile Hall Parking Lot Renovation Project. The renovation of the parking lot at the Indio Juvenile Hall is identified as the project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). No direct or indirect physical environmental impacts are anticipated from the parking lot and driveways improvements.

**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 15303 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures Exemption, Section 15311 Accessory Structures Exemption, and 15061(b) (3), General Rule or "Common Sense" Exemption, Codified under Title 14, Articles 5 and 19, Sections 15061, 15301, 15303, and 15311.

**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 the renovation of the existing parking lot at Indio Juvenile Hall.

- **Section 15301 (b)–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 renovation of the parking lot at the Indio Juvenile Hall and reconfiguration of the accessibility design for compliance and to facilitate internal circulation. The improvements would result in the continued provision of 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 will not result in any direct or indirect physical environmental effects. The renovation of the parking lot would be limited to the repaving of the facility and accessibility improvements within the existing footprint of the facility and would not substantially increase the capacity of the site. The use of the facility would remain unchanged. 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: 8-19-2024

Mike Sullivan,  
County of Riverside, Facilities Management