



County of Riverside  
TLMA Aviation  
4080 Lemon Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Riverside, CA 92501

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## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

October 1, 2024

**Project Name:** Approval of the Billboard License Agreement between County of Riverside and Lamar Central Outdoor, LLC, Chiriaco Summit Airport.

**Project Location:** 62450 Chiriaco Rd., Indio, CA 92201 – Chiriaco Summit Airport.

**Description of Project:** The County of Riverside, Aviation Division (“Aviation Division”) as landlord, and Lamar Central Outdoor, LLC, as Licensee, have negotiated a Billboard License Agreement, Chiriaco Summit Airport, which is set to commence on September 1, 2024, (“License”). The License relates to the use of approximately 3,200 square feet of unimproved land at the Chiriaco Summit Airport (“License Area”), and is utilized by Licensee for the purpose of operating two (2) sign locations measuring 40’ x 40’ each, identified as Billboard Site Nos. 1037 and 1039. The License will be for a term of ten (10) years and will expire on August 30, 2034. Licensee will not change the existing use of the Licensed Area.

The Billboard License Agreement has been identified as a proposed project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because a discretionary action by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors is required for approval. The approval of the Billboard License Agreement will not change the existing use of the License Area, which will not result in any significant environmental impacts or include any mitigation measures.

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Riverside County Transportation and Land Management Agency (TLMA) Aviation Division

**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 is limited to assignment of an existing aircraft storage hangar and does not include a new development or improvements to the Leased Premises. Furthermore, this project would not result in any physical direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect impacts to the environment.

- **Section 15301-Class 1 Existing Facilities Exemption:** 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 approval of a License. and. will result in the same purpose and substantially similar capacity on the existing facilities at the airport and would be consistent with the existing land use and contractual requirements for the use of the site. 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. Approval of the License is an administrative function, and would result in the continued operation of existing billboards at the airport . No significant direct or indirect environmental impacts 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.

Signature: Kimberly Loomis

Date: 10.1.24

Kimberly Loomis  
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County of Riverside TLMA-Aviation Division

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER**