

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

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

November 26, 2024

**Project Name:** Riverside University Health System Campus Professional Center (RUHS-CPC) Emergency Inventory and Cleanup Project

**Project Number:** FM0417200461

**Project Location:** 14375 Nason Street, north of Cactus Avenue, Moreno Valley, California; Assessor's Parcel Number (APN): 486-280-028

**Description of Project:** On August 27, 2024, and during the night, a vehicle struck a fire hydrant on Hospital Drive, the road leading to the main County hospital complex in Moreno Valley. The resulting release of water flooded the surrounding area including the Campus Professional Center (CPC) located at 14375 Nason Street in Moreno Valley. The CPC is an office facility that is leased by the County for use primarily by Riverside University Health System (RUHS). By the time the water had been shut-off to the facility, water had accumulated around the perimeter of the building and seeped into the CPC affecting two office suites.

As part of the restoration and insurance process, RUHS and Occupational Health, the affected occupants, immediately began inventorying and removing damaged furniture and contents. This building is a leased facility, and the landlord is responsible for the building and the physical improvements, and the County is responsible for its furniture and contents. The remediation of the water damage is identified as the proposed project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The operation of the facility will continue to provide public services and will not result in a change or expansion of existing use. No additional direct or indirect physical environmental impacts are anticipated.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Riverside County Facilities Management

**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 Categorical Exemption; Section 15061(b) (3), General Rule or "Common Sense" Exemption, Codified under Title 14, Articles 5 and 19, Sections 15061, and 15301.

**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 emergency repairs and clean-up of the affected rooms at the RUHS-CPC.

- **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 water remediation to the RUHS-CHC affected areas to prevent operational failure. The use of the facilities would continue to provide 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 cleanup of the affected areas will not result in any direct or indirect physical environmental impacts. The improvements would occur within existing facility, would not alter the footprint and are being completed to create a compliant and safe health facility. The use of the facility for public health services 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: 11-26-2024

Mike Sullivan,  
County of Riverside, Facilities Management