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*Director of Transportation*

# COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

## TRANSPORTATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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## Transportation Department

### NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

December 11, 2024

**PROJECT TITLE:** Adoption of Ordinance No. 824.18 to reflect changes in the Western Riverside Council of Governments TUMF Programs

Work Order#ZTR1100 Task Code #ZADM

**PROJECT SPONSOR:** County of Riverside Transportation Department

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Located in Western Riverside County

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The County of Riverside (County) is a Member of the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), a joint powers agency comprised of the County and eighteen (18) cities located in Western Riverside County. In 2002-2003 the WRCOG Member Jurisdictions developed the Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee (TUMF), a plan whereby funds, needed to enlarge the capacity of the Regional System of Highways and Arterials due to new development in Western Riverside County, could be collected from future residential, commercial, and industrial development. In 2002 WRCOG performed and adopted the 2002 Western Riverside County Transportation Uniform Fee Nexus Study, and the County adopted and implemented an ordinance authorizing the County's participation in the TUMF Program.

On September 9, 2024, the WRCOG Executive Committee adopted the 2024 TUMF Nexus Study to reflect changes in the TUMF Program. WRCOG is required each year after approval of the Nexus Study, per the TUMF Administrative Plan, to present the proposed construction cost index (CCI) adjustment for consideration by the Executive Committee. The CCI is an administrative element of the TUMF that is intended to keep the dollar value of the TUMF Program whole. On September 9, 2024, the Executive Committee approved the TUMF CCI adjustment during their meeting. With this approval, the WRCOG Executive Committee has recommended that member agencies prepare amendments to their respective ordinances to adopt and implement the new TUMF fees based on the CCI adjustment.

The purpose of Amendment 824.18 to Ordinance 824 is to reflect the updated fee schedule.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

**The Riverside County Transportation Department has found that the above-described Ordinance is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), based on the following:**

Section 15378 – Not a Project - Organizational or administrative activities of government entities, such as the reorganization, formatting, addition of introductory explanation to the ordinance, and changes to administrative processing and application requirements do not constitute a project under CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15378. Ordinance No. 824.18 is, in part, changing the administrative process for annual fee increases by allowing adoption of the fee increases either through an ordinance or resolution and clarifying the two types of fee increases as periodic or annual.

Section 15273 – Statutory Exemption (Modification of Fees for Capital Projects) - The establishment or modification of fees charged by public agencies is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15273 when it is for the purpose of obtaining funds for capital projects, necessary to maintain service within existing service areas. WRCOG recognized that there was insufficient funding to address the impacts of new development on the regional system of highways and arterials in Western Riverside (Regional System) and created the transportation mitigation fee to fund the necessary improvements for the Regional System. WRCOG increases the mitigation fees periodically pursuant to a nexus. The member agencies of WRCOG then review and adopt the increases to the mitigation fee, as the County of Riverside is doing through the adoption of Ordinance No. 824.18.

Section 15061(b)(3) – Common Sense Exemption – Ordinance No. 824.18 is exempt pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the amendment to Ordinance No. 824 may have a significant effect on the environment. The revisions to Ordinance No. 824.18 involve clarifying the process of fee increases, changing the process for fee increases, and increasing the fees based on the WRCOG Executive Committee recommendation. None of these activities has any significant effect on the environment. Ordinance No. 824.18 does not lead to any direct improvements, developments, or any other projects. Any future improvements, developments or other projects that may be constructed as a result of the fee increase will be subject to a separate CEQA evaluation. As a result, adoption of Ordinance No. 824.18 is exempt from CEQA and there is no possibility that this amendment will cause a significant impact on the environment.

By: David Castro, Associate Transportation Planner

Signed: Jan Bulinski  
Jan Bulinski, Environmental Project Manager