

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): Merced County DPW
715 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Merced, CA 95341

County Clerk
County of: Merced
2222 M Street
Merced, CA 95340

(Address)

Project Title: Merced County Solid Waste Hauler Rate Adjustment Ordinance for SB 1383 Compliance

Project Applicant: Merced County Department of Public Works

Project Location - Specific:

Unincorporated Merced County

Project Location - City: N/A Project Location - County: Merced

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Ordinance to increase solid waste hauler rates in Merced County's unincorporated areas to offset costs associated with mandatory organic waste collection services required by Senate Bill 1383. The ordinance will benefit franchise haulers, including Mid Valley Disposal, Waste Management, and Gilton Solid Waste Management, Inc., by providing adjusted rates to cover new expenses. Additionally, the project will benefit residents and businesses by providing expanded organic collection services, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and supporting the state's climate goals.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Merced County

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Merced County Department of Public Works

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:
Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Section 15273(a)(1)

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines Section 15273(a) (1), which provides that CEQA does not apply to the establishment, modification, structuring, restructuring, or approval of rates, tolls, fares, and other charges by public agencies which the public agency finds are for the purpose of meeting operating expenses, including employee wage rates and fringe benefits. Here, the proposed rate modification is intended to allow the solid waste haulers to meet operating expenses and therefore qualifies for this statutory exemption.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Nathan Bray Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (209) 385-7602

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: [Signature] Date: 29 JAN 25 Title: Director of Public Works

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: