

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Mail Stop: A-33
ARCC-Recorder
Attn: Karina Ortiz
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

FROM: Mail Stop: 0-368
County of San Diego,
General Services
Attn: Melanie Tylke
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 410
San Diego, CA 92123

OPR State Clearinghouse
Filed Electronically

SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21108 OR 21152

Project Name: Lease Agreement Between the County of San Diego and Sorensen Greenhouses of New Mexico, Inc.

Project Location: 29942 Valley Center Road, Valley Center, California 92082; San Diego County (APN 188-290-71)

Project Applicant: County of San Diego General Services, 5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 410, San Diego, CA 92123

Project Description: Lease agreement with Sorensen Greenhouses of New Mexico, Inc. to use approximately 5.22 acres of land consisting of existing greenhouses for cultivating cactus and other related plants for wholesale consumers, i.e., not for sale to the public, and other small structures for offices and restrooms. The agreement also includes the non-inclusive right to use the shared access road. The lease term is three years and may be extended for two additional one-year periods.

Agency Approving Project: County of San Diego

Date Form Completed: December 6, 2024

County Contact Person: Dena T. Boylan

Telephone: (619) 241-6346

This is to advise that the County of San Diego Director of General Services has approved the above-described project on April 3, 2025, and found the project to be exempt from the CEQA under the following criteria:

Exempt status and applicable section of the CEQA ("C") and/or State CEQA Guidelines ("G"): (check only one)

- Declared Emergency [C 21080(b)(3); G 15269(a)]
- Emergency Project [C 21080(b)(4); G 15269(b)(c)]
- Statutory Exemption. C Section:
- Categorical Exemption. G Section(s): 15301 – Existing Facilities
- G 15182 – Residential Projects Pursuant to a Specific Plan
- Activity is exempt from the CEQA because it is not a project as defined in Section 15378.
- G 15061(b)(3) – It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment and the activity is not subject to the CEQA.

Statement of reasons why project is exempt:

The Lease Agreement between the County of San Diego and Sorensen Greenhouses of New Mexico, Inc. is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15301 Existing Facilities as it involves a lease agreement to operate, repair, and maintain existing structures with no expansion of the existing use. Further, no exceptions listed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply to the project. Additionally, the project will not impact environmental resources of hazardous or critical concern that are designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted by government agencies; does not contribute to cumulative environmental impact; will not have a significant impact on the environment due to unusual circumstances; does not damage scenic resources within a designated state scenic highway; and is not on the list of Hazardous Waste and Substance Sites pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

The following is to be filled in only upon formal project approval by the appropriate County of San Diego decision-making body.

Signature: Marcus Lubich Telephone: (858) 414-4593

Name (Print): Marcus Lubich Title: Environmental Project Manager

This Notice of Exemption has been signed and filed by the County of San Diego.

This notice must be filed with the Recorder/County Clerk as soon as possible after project approval by the decision-making body. The Recorder/County Clerk must post this notice within 24 hours of receipt and for a period of not less than 30 days. At the termination of the posting period, the Recorder/County Clerk must return this notice to the Department address listed above along with evidence of the posting period. The originating Department must then retain the returned notice for a period of not less than twelve months. Reference: CEQA Guidelines Section 15062.