

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

FROM: Mail Stop: 029
County of San Diego,
Department of Parks and Recreation
Attn: Crystal Benham
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 270
San Diego, CA 92123

State Clearinghouse
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
P.O. Box 3044

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

Project Name: Jess Martin County Park Basketball Half-Court

Project Location: Jess Martin County Park, 2955 Highway 79, Julian, CA 92036

Project Applicant: County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation, 5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 270, San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 565-3600

Project Description: Jess Martin County Park (JMCP) is a multi-use recreational area that offers a variety of amenities including three ball fields, a playground, skatepark, exercise paths and equipment, picnic tables, and restrooms. The Jess Martin Park Advisory Committee (JMPAC) provides information and recommendations to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) regarding the annual operations and maintenance budget for JMCP and performs other duties as the Board of Supervisors may assign. During the JMPAC meeting on November 4, 2024, the committee voiced their support for the JMCP Basketball Half-court project. On November 18, 2024, the Julian Community Planning Group voted unanimously to prioritize and support the allocation of PLDO Funds in the fiscal year 2024/2025 for the construction of the JMCP Basketball Half-court. The court would be approximately 2,100 square feet in size, located adjacent to the existing skatepark along the south boundary of JMCP and north of State Route 79.

Agency Approving Project: County of San Diego

Date Form Completed: 4/23/2025

County Contact Person: Michael John Espiritu

Telephone: (619) 913-8488

This is to advise that the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors has approved the above-described project on **April 23, 2025 (item #1)** and found the project to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (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, 15303
- 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 proposed action complies with CEQA because it is: (1) categorically exempt under Section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines, Existing Facilities, as it involves the construction of a park facility, a basketball court, at an existing park; (2) categorically exempt under Section 15303 of CEQA Guidelines, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, because the construction consists of a 2,100 square-foot basketball court at an existing park facility.

Additionally, there are no unusual circumstances or other applicable exceptions to the exemptions and no features that would distinguish this project that would constitute unusual circumstances. The project would not impact environmental resources of hazardous or critical concern that are designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted by government agencies; does not contribute to a cumulative environmental impact; would not have a significant impact on the environment due to unusual circumstances; does not damage scenic resources within a designated state scenic highway; is not on the list of Hazardous Waste and Substance Sites pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code; and does not cause adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

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

Signature: _____ Telephone: (858) 966-1378

Name (Print): Kiran Seibel Title: Group Program Manager, Resource Management Division

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.

EXHIBIT A

The proposed action complies with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State and County CEQA Guidelines because the action is: (1) categorically exempt under Section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines, Existing Facilities, as it includes the construction of a park facility, a basketball court, at an existing park; (2) categorically exempt under Section 15303 of CEQA Guidelines, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, because the construction consists of a 2,100 square-foot basketball court at an existing park facility.

The Project is not subject to any of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions listed in Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines as it (1) will not impact environmental resources of hazardous or critical concern that are designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted by government agencies; (2) will not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances; (3) will not contribute to a cumulative environmental impact; (4) will not damage scenic resources within a designated state scenic highway; (5) is not on the list of Hazardous Waste and Substance Sites pursuant to Section 65962.2 of the Government Code; and (6) will not cause adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Section 21084 of the Public Resources Code requires the CEQA Guidelines to include a list of classes of projects which have been determined to not have a significant effect on the environment and which shall, therefore, be exempt from the provisions of CEQA. DPR Staff has determined the project is categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15301 Class 1, Existing Facilities; and Section 15303 Class 2, New Construction and Conversion of Small Structures.

Categorical Exemption; Section 15301 – Existing Facilities

Section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines entails changes to existing facilities. As stated in the CEQA Guidelines, the key consideration for applying this exemption is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of use.

Class 1 consists of operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Section 15301 lists several different examples of the projects that would be expected to fall within Class 1. However, the types of "existing facilities" itemized within Class 1 are not intended to be all-inclusive of the types of projects which may fall within the class. The following are some examples listed in Section 15301:

- Interior or exterior alterations involving such things as interior partitions, plumbing, and electrical conveyances;
- Existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electrical power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services;
- Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety, and other alterations such as the addition of bicycle facilities, including but not limited to bicycle parking, bicycle-share facilities and bicycle lanes, transit improvements such as bus lanes, pedestrian crossings, street trees, and other similar alterations that do not create additional automobile lanes);
- Restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety, unless it is determined that the damage was substantial and resulted from an environmental hazard such as earthquake, landslide, or flood;
- Additions to existing structures provided that the addition will not result in an increase of more than:
 - 50 percent of the floor area of the structures before the addition, or 2,500 square feet, whichever is less; or
 - 10,000 square feet if:
 - The project is an area where all public services and facilities are available to allow for maximum development permissible in the General Plan and
 - The area in which the project is located is not environmentally sensitive.
- Addition of safety or health protection devices for use during construction of or in conjunction with existing structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment, or topographical features including navigational devices;
- New copy of existing on and off-premise sign;
- Maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, and water supply reservoirs (excluding the use of pesticides, as defined in Section 12753, Division 7, Chapter 2, Food and Agricultural Code).

CEQA exemption Section 15301, Class 1, applies to this project as the project involves the construction of the construction of a park facility, a basketball court, at an existing park. This project is categorically exempt under Section 15301 because it involves construction of a park feature within an existing park facility and would not change the existing park use. Furthermore, the project is not located in an environmentally sensitive area; are not cumulative impacts of successive projects of the same type in the same place over time; will not result in impacts to scenic highways or historical resources, and do not present any significant effects on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

Categorical Exemption; Section 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures

Section 15303 of the CEQA Guidelines entails the construction of a new facility and equipment located at an existing park site.

The Class 3 exemption includes but is not limited to the following examples listed in Section 15303:

- One single-family residence, or a second dwelling unit in a residential zone. In urbanized areas, up to three single-family residences may be constructed or converted under this exemption.
- A duplex or similar multi-family residential structure, totaling no more than four dwelling units. In urbanized areas, this exemption applies to apartments, duplexes and similar structures designed for not more than six dwelling units.
- A store, motel, office, restaurant or similar structure not involving the use of significant amounts of hazardous substances, and not exceeding 2500 square feet in floor area. In urbanized areas, the exemption also applies to up to four such commercial buildings not exceeding 10,000 square feet in floor area on sites zoned for such use if not involving the use of significant amounts of hazardous substances where all necessary public services and facilities are available and the surrounding area is not environmentally sensitive.
- Water main, sewage, electrical, gas, and other utility extensions, including street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction.
- Accessory (appurtenant) structures including garages, carports, patios, swimming pools, and fences
- An accessory steam sterilization unit for the treatment of medical waste at a facility occupied by a medical waste generator, provided that the unit is installed and operated in accordance with the Medical Waste Management Act (Section 117600, et seq., of the Health and Safety Code) and accepts no offsite waste.

CEQA exemption Section 15303, Class 3, applies to the project because it consists of the construction of a half-court basketball court, approximately 2,100 square feet in size, at the existing Jess Martin County Park. The existing park facility includes a playground, skatepark, ballfields, exercise equipment, picnic tables, and restroom. The basketball court would be one of the many park features available for public use at the existing park facility. It therefore is categorically exempt under Section 15303. Furthermore, the project is not located in an environmentally sensitive area; will not contribute to cumulative impacts of successive projects of the same type in the same place over time; will not result in impacts to scenic highways or historical resources; and does not present any significant effects on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

Section 15300.2 – Exceptions

The project was reviewed for the exceptions outlined in the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2 (a – f) to determine if there are any reasons a project may not be considered categorically exempt under any of the following classes or projects (Section 15300 et al.). The project would be consistent with Section 15301, Class 1; and Section 15303, Class 3. None of the exceptions to the exemptions apply (Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines), as described in the following paragraphs:

15300.2(a) – Location: The CEQA categorical exemptions identified for the project are Class 1 (Section 15301, Existing Facilities), Class 3 (Section 15303, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures). Class 1 is not qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located. Class 3 is qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. The project is not located within particularly sensitive environments, and the project would not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

15300.2(b) – Cumulative Impact: All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant. The project would construct a basketball court, a park feature, at an existing facility. There would not be a cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time that would be significant. As such, the project would occur within the existing park and adjacent to similar park features. Furthermore, the project is not located in an environmentally sensitive area and successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time would not have a significant impact.

15300.2(c) – Significant Effect: A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. The project would construct a basketball court, a park feature, at an existing facility. As such, there is nothing unusual about the property location or operational use of the basketball court. Therefore, there is no reasonable possibility of significant impacts due to unusual circumstances.

15300.2(d) – Scenic Highways: A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway official designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR. State scenic highways refer to those highways that are officially designated by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as scenic (Caltrans – California Scenic Highway Program). No Scenic Highways designated by Caltrans are in proximity of the project site. Therefore, the project would not cause a significant impact to scenic resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.

15300.2(e) – Hazardous Waste Sites: A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. No potential significant impacts due to hazardous waste sites would occur due to the project. The existing facility has been developed. The site has not been used for any use type which would authorize the handling of hazardous waste materials and is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

15300.2(f) – Historical Resources: A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in significance of a historical resource. The existing facility parcel or the existing facility is not designated as historical. There are no known cultural resources within 1,500 feet of the project area. Therefore, the project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The project is consistent with CEQA Sections 15301 – Existing Facilities, and 15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, and no exceptions listed in CEQA Section 15300.2 apply. Therefore, the project may rely on the exemptions for the reasons documented above.