

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**ITEM: 3.13**

**(ID # 14705)**

**MEETING DATE:**

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

**FROM:** FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND RIVERSIDE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT:

**SUBJECT:** FACILITIES MANAGEMENT (FM) AND RIVERSIDE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT: Riverside County Fire Department Winchester Station 34 Landscape Project - California Environmental Quality Act Exempt, Approval of In-Principle and Preliminary Project Budget, District 3. [\$161,632 - Fire Department Budget-General Fund - 100%]

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the Riverside County Fire Department Winchester Station 34 (Fire Winchester Station 34 Landscape) Project for inclusion in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP);
2. Find that the Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301, Class 1 Existing Facilities Exemption, and Section 15061 (b)(3) "Common Sense" Exemption;
3. Approve in-principle the Fire Winchester Station 34 Landscape Project located at 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester, California; to install new plants and a drip irrigation system;

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**ACTION:** Policy, CIP

  
Rose Salgado, Director of Facilities Management 4/1/2021

  
Bill Weiser, Fire Department Chief 4/6/2021

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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

On motion of Supervisor Jeffries, seconded by Supervisor Hewitt and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Hewitt  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Date: April 20, 2021  
xc: FM, FIRE, Purchasing

Kecia R. Harper  
Clerk of the Board

By:   
Deputy

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**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

4. Approve a preliminary project budget in the not to exceed amount of \$161,632 for the Project;
5. Authorize use of the Fire Department Budget-General Fund, including reimbursement to Facilities Management Department (FM) for incurred project related expenses;
6. Delegate project management authority for the Project to the Director of Facilities Management in accordance with applicable Board policies, including the authority to utilize consultants on the approved pre-qualified list for services in connection with the Project, and are within the approved project budget; and
7. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to execute pre-qualified consultant service agreements not to exceed \$100,000 per pre-qualified consultant, per fiscal year, in accordance with applicable Board policies for the Project, and the sum of all project contracts shall not exceed \$161,632.

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<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	<b>Current Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Next Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Total Cost:</b>	<b>Ongoing Cost</b>
<b>COST</b>	\$ 90,000	\$ 71,632	\$ 161,632	\$ 0
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b> Fire Department Budget-General Fund - 100%			<b>Budget Adjustment:</b> No <b>For Fiscal Year:</b> 2020/21 – 2021/22	

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:** Approve.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary**

The Fire Departments Winchester Station 34 is one of the largest and most recognized in the County, housing the lone HAZMAT Unit for Riverside County Fire. Station 34 has minimal landscaping with large areas of dirt; therefore, it is the intent of the County to add additional landscape that is both drought tolerant and easily maintained. The project scope would include but is not limited to, a new drip irrigation system, planting of shrubs and trees, installing a mow curb, crushed rock, and decomposed granite.

Facilities Management recommends the Board of Supervisors (Board) approve the Fire Winchester Station 34 Landscape Project and the preliminary project budget in the not to exceed amount of \$161,632 to complete the project. FM intends to use the best cost-effective project delivery method to expedite the completion of the project.

With certainty, there is no possibility that the Project, as defined, may have a significant effect on the environment. The Project, as proposed, includes installation of a drip irrigation system and plantings on County owned land. The use of the facility would continue to provide public services and would not result in a significant increase in capacity or intensity of use. Therefore, the Fire Winchester Station 34 Landscape Project is exempt under CEQA as the project meets the scope and intent of the Common Sense Exemption identified in Section 15061 (b)(3) and Class 1 Categorical Exemption identified in Section 15301. A Notice of Exemption will be filed by FM staff with the County Clerk within five days of Board approval.

**Impact on Residents and Businesses**

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**Impact on Residents and Businesses**

The project will not have an impact on residents or businesses.

**Additional Fiscal Information**

The approximate allocation of the preliminary project budget is as follows:

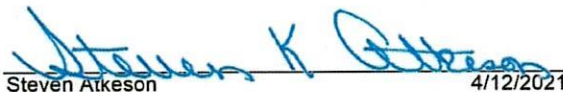
PROJECT BUDGET LINE ITEMS	CATEGORY	PROJECT BUDGET AMOUNT
Architectural Design	1	0
Construction Management	2	0
Construction	3	127,438
Offsite Construction	4	0
Project Management	5	15,000
Fixtures, Furnishings, Equipment	6	0
Other Soft Costs/Specialty Consultants	7	4,500
Project Contingency	8	14,694
<b>Preliminary Project Budget</b>		<b>\$ 161,632</b>

All costs associated with this Board action will be 100% funded with the Fire Department Budget-General Fund. Expenditures for FY 2020/21 are estimated at \$90,000; and expenditures for FY 2021/22 are estimated at \$71,632.

RS:VC:SP:JA:DL:tv:to FM05270010548 MT # 14705  
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Prelim Proj Bdg\_042021.doc

  
Suzanna Hockley, Assistant Director of Purchasing and Fleet Service

3/26/2021

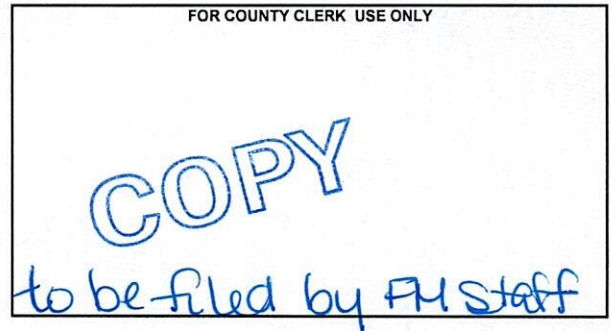
  
Steven Atkeson

4/12/2021

  
Gregory L. Priamos, Director County Counsel

4/7/2021

**Riverside County**  
**Facilities Management**  
3133 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92507



## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

March 11, 2021

**Project Name:** Riverside County Fire Department Winchester Station 34 Landscaping Project

**Project Number:** FM05270010548

**Project Locations:** 32655 Haddock Street, west of State Route 79, Winchester, California 92596; Assessor's Parcel Number (APN): 462-120-007

**Description of Project:** The County of Riverside owns a facility located at 32655 Haddock Street in the community of Winchester that contains Fire Station 34. Currently, the Winchester Station 34 has minimal landscaping with large areas of dirt. The station is one of the largest and most recognized in the County, housing the lone HAZMAT Unit for Riverside County Fire, it is the intent of the County to add additional landscape that is both drought tolerant and easily maintained. The project scope would include but not be limited to, new drip irrigation system, planting of shrubs and trees, the installation of a mow curb, the installation of crushed rock, and the installation of decomposed granite. The completion of exterior landscaping improvements within the Fire Station 34 facility 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 Exemption; 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 implementation of improvements at Fire Station 34.



- **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 completion of exterior landscaping improvements within Fire Station 34 to make the facility more aesthetically pleasing. The improvements would direct include drip irrigation and plantings. 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 completion of improvements at Fire Station 34 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 provide a facility that is drought tolerant and easily maintained. The use of the facility for public safety 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: 3-11-2021

Mike Sullivan, Senior Environmental Planner  
County of Riverside, Facilities Management