

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



**ITEM: 3.6**  
(ID # 20189)

**MEETING DATE:**  
Tuesday, December 06, 2022

**FROM :** FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND COUNTY COUNSEL :

**SUBJECT:** FACILITIES MANAGEMENT (FM) AND COUNTY COUNSEL: County Counsel Murrieta Additional Office Remodel Project - California Environmental Quality Act Exempt, Approval of In-Principle and Preliminary Project Budget, District 3. [\$114,235 - 100% County Counsel Department General Fund 10000]

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

1. Approve the County Counsel Murrieta Additional Office Remodel (County Counsel Murrieta Office Remodel) 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 Sections 15301, Class 1 Existing Facilities Exemption and Section 15061 (b)(3) "Common Sense" Exemption;

Continued on Page 2

**ACTION:Policy, CIP**

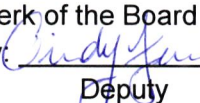
  
Rose Salgado, Director of Facilities Management 1/15/2022

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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Hewitt, and Perez  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Date: December 6, 2022  
xc: FM, Co. Co.

Kecia R. Harper  
Clerk of the Board  
By:   
Deputy

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

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

3. Approve in-principle the County Counsel Murrieta Office Remodel Project located at 30755-D Auld Road in Murrieta, California; to create an additional office within the occupied space due to staff augmentation to better serve the community;
4. Approve a preliminary budget in the not to exceed amount of \$114,235 for the Project;
5. Authorize the use of County Counsel Department General Fund 10000 not to exceed \$114,235, including reimbursement to Facilities Management (FM) for incurred project related expenses;
6. Delegate project management authority for the Project to the Director of Facilities Management, or her designee, 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 this Project, and the sum of all contracts shall not exceed \$114,235.

<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>	\$ 114,235	\$ 0	\$ 114,235	\$ 0
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b> County Counsel Department General Fund 10000 – 100%			<b>Budget Adjustment:</b> No	
			<b>For Fiscal Year:</b> 2022/23	

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

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary**

The County Counsel's office in Murrieta is dedicated to serving the needs of the Department of Public Social Services – Child Services Division (DPSS-CSD) in their efforts to protect at risk, abused, and neglected children throughout Riverside County. The number of families and children being served by DPSS-CSD continues to grow each month across all areas of the county. To keep up with the increasing demands and caseloads of the attorneys who represent DPSS-CSD, additional office space is needed with the County Counsel's office. The increase in

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

office space will allow for an additional attorney to be added to the Murrieta office to continue providing effective and timely legal support to DPSS-CSD. The County Counsel's office in Murrieta is seeking to modify existing office space by moving one internal wall in the conference room and by adding a wall to divide currently existing office space into two offices to accommodate an additional attorney. The scope of work for the Project includes but is not limited to: redesign of the offices to improve the usage of the space requirements; demolition and reconstruction of the track ceiling; construction of the walls and doors; fire sprinkler relocation, patch and paint, and installation of new flooring as required.

Facilities Management (FM) recommends the Board of Supervisors (Board) approve the County Counsel Murrieta Office Remodel Project and the preliminary project budget in the not to exceed amount of \$114,235 to meet project schedule commitments. FM will procure the most cost-effective project delivery method and award the construction contract in accordance with applicable Board policies.

With certainty, there is no possibility that the County Counsel Murrieta Office Remodel Project may have a significant effect on the environment. The Project, as proposed, is limited to minor interior alterations to redesign the office space at an existing County-owned facility. The improvements will not alter the function of the facility or increase the intensity of use. No direct or indirect impacts would occur. Therefore, the Project is exempt as the project meets the scope and intent of the Common Sense Exemption identified in Section 15061 (B)(3), and Class 1 Existing Facilities, 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**

The County Counsel Murrieta Office Remodel Project will accommodate the department's need to add an office for the new attorney to better serve the County and its citizens. There will be no impact to any residents nor business.

**Additional Fiscal Information**

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

<b>BUDGET LINE ITEMS</b>	<b>BUDGET AMOUNT</b>
DESIGN PROFESSIONAL OF RECORD	25,800
SPECIALTY CONSULTANTS	4,000
REGULATORY PERMITTING	7,000
CONSTRUCTION	58,750
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION	8,300
PROJECT CONTINGENCY	10,385

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

<b>PRELIMINARY PROJECT BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 114,235</b>
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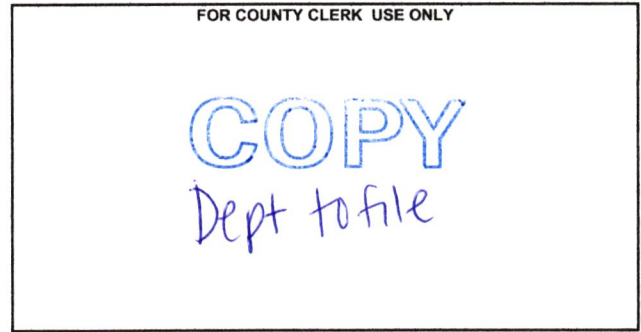
Of the \$114,235, approximately \$21,986 have been expended to date for design services to evaluate the project feasibility. The remaining balance of \$92,249 will be expended in FY 22/23.

RS:SP:RB:CC:mg                      FM05150011761                      MT Item #20189  
G:\Project Management Office\FORM 11'S\FORM 11's\_In Process\20189\_D4 - 0011761 - County Counsel Murrieta Office Remodel - Approval of In-Princ & Prelim ProjBdgt\_120622.doc

  
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Suzanna Hackley, Assistant Director of Purchasing and Fleet Service                      10/25/2022

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristine Bell-Valdez, Supervising Deputy County Counsel                      11/16/2022

**Riverside County**  
**Facilities Management**  
3450 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Riverside, CA 92501



**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

October 11, 2022

**Project Name:** County Counsel Office Remodel, Murrieta

**Project Number:** FM05150011761

**Project Locations:** 30755 Auld Road, east of Winchester Road, Murrieta, California, 92563, Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 963-080-013

**Description of Project:** The County Counsel's office in Murrieta is seeking to construct an additional office within the office space to accommodate an additional attorney. The scope of work for the Project includes, but is not limited to, redesign of the offices to improve the usage of the space requirements; demolition and reconstruction of the track ceiling; construction of the walls and doors; fire sprinkler relocation, patch and paint, and installation of new flooring as required. The interior improvements at the County Counsel's Office are 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 an expansion of existing use. No additional direct or indirect physical environmental impacts are anticipated.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Riverside County

**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; and 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 office remodel at the County Counsel's Office in Murrieta.

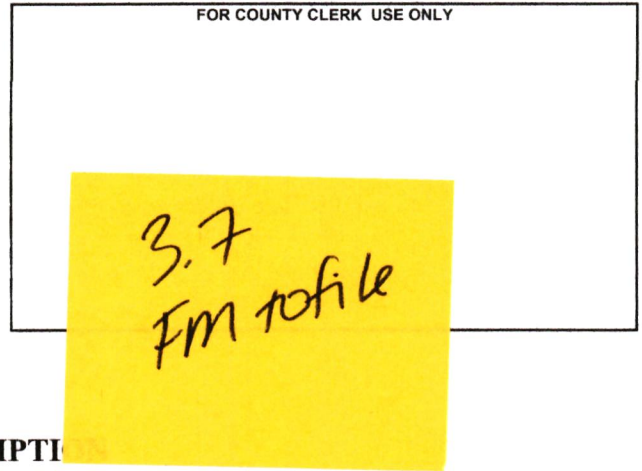
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- **Section 15301 –Existing Facilities:** This Class 1 categorical exemption includes the operation, repair, maintenance, leasing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures or facilities, provided the exemption only involves negligible or no expansion of the previous site’s use. The project, as proposed, is limited to minor interior improvements at the existing County Counsel facility to keep the building functioning and operating efficiently. 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 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 improvements will not result in any direct or indirect physical environmental impacts. The use of the facility would remain unchanged, continuing to provide public services. 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: 10-11-2022

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

**Riverside County  
Facilities Management**3450 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Riverside, CA 92501**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

August 25, 2022

**Project Name:** Ben Clark Training Center (BCTC) Modular Showers Project**Project Number:** FM05270011535**Project Location:** 16902 Bundy Avenue, south of 9th Street, Riverside, CA 92508, Assessor's Parcel Number (APN): 294-110-005

**Description of Project:** The Riverside County Fire Department BCTC has an area near the southeast corner of their Fire Drill Training grounds where they would like to install a modular shower building for the cadets to be able to clean up after live fire drills to decontaminate themselves before going back to the dorm or heading home. The building is intended to be temporary until a permanent shower building can be built on the grounds. The siting of the modular will be sited near the corner of Bundy Ave and 8th Street for existing sewer, water, and power connections. The installation of modular shower building at BCTC is defined as the proposed project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The operation of the facility will continue to provide fire training services at the existing facility and will not result in a significant expansion of existing use. No additional direct or indirect physical environmental impacts are anticipated.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Riverside County**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; Section 15303 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structure Exemption, and Section 15061(b) (3), General Rule or "Common Sense" Exemption, Codified under Title 14, Articles 5 and 19, Sections 15061, 15301, and 15303.

**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 Modular shower building at the BCTC.

- Section 15301 (d)–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 improvements within the existing facility are minor functional modifications needed to provide a washdown area after firefighting training which will provide an appropriate level of safety. The facility provides fire training services, and the improvements to the existing facility to maintain safe and efficient operation are exempt as they meet the scope and intent of the Categorical Exemption identified in Section 15301, Article 19, Categorical Exemptions of the CEQA Guidelines.
- Section 15303 (c) New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures:** This Class 3 exemption includes the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made to the exterior of the structure. The new modular building is approximately 720 feet in size and is within the 2,500-foot development threshold identified in 15303 (c). The modular showers and will not require additional capacity or expansion of public services. No additional capacity would be created by the showers that would function as an accessory use to the existing fire training facility. The facility would continue to be used in a similar capacity; therefore, the project is exempt as the project meets the scope and intent of the Categorical Exemption identified in Section 15303, 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 installation of the modular shower facility within the existing BCTC campus consists of minor modifications within developed areas to increase the functionality and safety of the facility and will not result in any direct or indirect physical environmental impacts.

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: 8-25-2022

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



**Riverside County**  
**Facilities Management**  
3450 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Riverside, CA 92501

FOR COUNTY CLERK USE ONLY

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file

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

June 15, 2022

**Project Name:** Riverside University Health System Emergency Department (RUHS-ED) Corridor Area Doors Renovation Project

**Project Number:** FM08430011729

**Project Location:** 26520 Cactus Avenue, west of Nason Street, Moreno Valley, County of Riverside, California; Assessor's Parcel Number (APN): 486-280-037

**Description of Project:** RUHS Medical Center is seeking to automate the ED corridor area doors to improve the functionality of the facility, provide hospital patrons with contactless entry into the ED, and tie in the automated doors with the hospital fire alarm system. The scope of work for the Project includes, but is not limited to, redesign of the door hardware to accommodate installation of card access equipment; cabling and electrical connection, patch and paint, and installation of new flooring as required. The improvements in the ED of the RUHS Medical Center is defined as the proposed project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The operation of the facility will continue to provide public health services at the existing facility and will not result in a significant expansion of existing use. No additional direct or indirect physical environmental impacts are anticipated.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Riverside County

**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 and Section 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 improvements in the ED of the RUHS Medical Center.

- **Section 15301 (d)—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 improvements within the existing facility are minor modifications needed to maintain an appropriate level of services. The facility provides public health services, and the improvements to the existing facility to maintain safe and efficient operation are exempt as they meet 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 improvements in the corridor area of the RUHS ED are interior modifications within an existing building to increase the functionality of the facility and will not result in any direct or indirect physical environmental impacts.

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: 6-15-2022

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



## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

November 22, 2022

**Project Name:** HVAC Replacement Project at Dr. Clair S. Johnson Apartments

**Project Number:** 2022-002

**Project Location:** 24501 School Road, Ripley, CA 92225

**Description of Project:** The Riverside Community Housing Corp (RCHC) owns, operates, and maintains the apartment complex known as the Dr. Clair S. Johnson Apartments (Property) located at 91-400 Seventh Street, Mecca, CA 92254. Several of the Property's HVAC systems are in need of complete replacement. The scope of the capital improvement will include removing the old HVAC systems and install all new replacements. The existing use of the site will remain the same and of similar intensity. Any existing impacts related to noise, traffic, or utilities will remain similar to existing conditions.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Riverside Community Housing Corp, Dept. of Housing, and Workforce Solutions (HWS).

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Riverside Community Housing Corp.

**Exempt Status:** California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15301, Existing Facilities and Section 15061 (b) (3), General Rule Exemption.

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** The project is 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 any impacts to scenic resources, historic resources, or unique sensitive biological environments. The existing structure here that will have its old HVAC systems replaced does not possess any historic significance and the project site is already developed. Further, no unusual circumstances or potential cumulative impacts would occur that may reasonably create an environmental impact. The replacement of old HVAC systems with new ones will not have any effect on the environment and no significant physical environmental impacts are anticipated to occur.

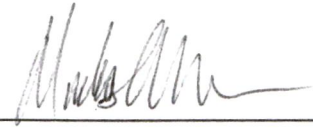
- Section 15301 – Class 1 Existing Facilities Exemption. This exemption includes the operation, repair, maintenance, leasing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures or facilities, provided the exemption only involves negligible or no expansion of the previous site's use. The project as proposed is the replacement of the existing HVAC systems, and as proposed, is minimal and would not result in any significant physical impacts related to air quality, traffic, noise, biological or historic resources, nor any other potential physical environmental impacts. Once the

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replacement of the old systems are complete, the property will continue to operate as an apartment building. Therefore, the project meets the scope and intent of the Class 1 Exemption.

- Section 15061(b)(3) – General Rule or “Common Sense” Exemption. The State CEQA Guidelines provides this exemption based upon the general rule that CEQA only applies to projects with the potential to cause a significant effect on the environment. With certainty, there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment. The replacement of already existing HVAC systems at the same physical location will not have an effect on the environment. The new fixtures will not increase any potential environmental impacts from either the replacement or installation of the new fixtures. The use and operation of the site will be substantially unchanged and will not create any new environmental impacts to the surrounding area. In fact, the replacement with new energy efficient units, will improve both the existing structure and the surrounding community. 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, Department of Housing and Workforce Solutions 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: 11/21/22

Mike F. Walsh, Secretary  
Riverside Community Housing Corp

**Riverside County**  
**Facilities Management**  
3450 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Riverside, CA 92501

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

October 11, 2022

**Project Name:** County Counsel Office Remodel, Murrieta

**Project Number:** FM05150011761

**Project Locations:** 30755 Auld Road, east of Winchester Road, Murrieta, California, 92563, Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 963-080-013

**Description of Project:** The County Counsel's office in Murrieta is seeking to construct an additional office within the office space to accommodate an additional attorney. The scope of work for the Project includes, but is not limited to, redesign of the offices to improve the usage of the space requirements; demolition and reconstruction of the track ceiling; construction of the walls and doors; fire sprinkler relocation, patch and paint, and installation of new flooring as required. The interior improvements at the County Counsel's Office are 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 an expansion of existing use. No additional direct or indirect physical environmental impacts are anticipated.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Riverside County

**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; and 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 office remodel at the County Counsel's Office in Murrieta.

- **Section 15301 –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 minor interior improvements at the existing County Counsel facility to keep the building functioning and operating efficiently. 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 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 improvements will not result in any direct or indirect physical environmental impacts. The use of the facility would remain unchanged, continuing to provide public services. 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: 10-11-2022

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