



# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING  
 976 OSOS STREET • ROOM 200 • SAN LUIS OBISPO • CALIFORNIA 93408 • (805)781-5600

## Project Title and No.: Extension of the Native Tree Interim Zoning/Urgency Ordinance / ED16-009

**Project Location (Specific address [use APN or description when no situs available]):**  
 County of San Luis Obispo – Unincorporated area

**Project Applicant/Phone No./Email:**  
 County San Luis Obispo/(805)781-5600/mamartin@co.slo.ca.us

**Applicant Address (Street, City, State, Zip):**  
 976 Osos Street Room 300, SLO, CA 93408

### Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project

An extension of the Native Tree Interim Zoning/Urgency Ordinance No. 3325 pursuant to Section 65858 of the California Government Code for a period of up to 22 months and 15 days. Ordinance No. 3325 prohibits the clear-cutting of oak woodlands and limits the removal of native trees in the inland area (does not include the Coastal Zone) of the unincorporated portions of San Luis Obispo County, except for development or land use activities complying with certain authorization standards and procedures.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** County of San Luis Obispo

### Exempt Status: (Check One)

- |                                     |                         |  |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Ministerial             | {Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268}                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Declared Emergency      | {Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)}                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Emergency Project       | {Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c)}                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Categorical Exemption.  | {Sec. <u>15307; 15308</u> ; Class: <u>7, 8</u> } |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Statutory Exemption     | {Sec. <u>      </u> }                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | General Rule Exemption. | {Sec. 15061(b)(3)}                               |

**Reasons why project is exempt:** This Ordinance promotes the role of Native Trees in creating natural scenic beauty and unique community identity, sustaining ecological balance and overall environmental health, providing habitat to ensure the generation of future trees, moderating climatic extremes, reducing soil erosion and enhancing surface water quality, improving air quality, and adding value to property.

This Ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §21000, et seq.) ("CEQA") because:

1. Per CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3) – The interim zoning/urgency ordinance is not subject to CEQA due to the general rule that an action is not subject to CEQA where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that there will be a significant effect on the environment. The ordinance provides for regulations to protect Native Tree species, woodlands, and critical habitats and thus, will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment.
2. Per CEQA Guidelines §15307(Class 7) – The interim zoning/urgency ordinance consists of regulations and restrictions that prohibit the unauthorized removal of Native Tree species and promotes maintenance and restoration activities for the enhancement of these natural resources.

3. Per CEQA Guidelines §15308(Class 8) – The interim zoning/urgency ordinance consists of regulations and restrictions on development activities to minimize damage, stress, premature death and unnecessary removal of trees; and it consists of regulations and restrictions on activities to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of the environment, including Native Tree species and all of the people, species, and environs that rely on that resource.

Megan Martin (mamartin@co.slo.ca.us)

(805)781-4163

**Lead Agency Contact Person**

**Telephone**

<b>If filed by applicant:</b> 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding 2. Has a notice of exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date 7/19/2016

Name (Print) Megan Martin Title Planner III

On \_\_\_\_\_ the project was Approved by:

- |   |  |                                      |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Supervisors | <input type="checkbox"/> Subdivision Review Board      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission  | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Dept Hearing Officer |                                      |



# GENERAL RULE EXEMPTION - CHECKLIST

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## Project Title and No.: Extension of the Native Tree Interim Zoning/Urgency Ordinance / ED16-009

Pursuant to section 15061 of the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the preliminary review of a project includes a determination as to whether a project is exempt from CEQA. This checklist represents a summary of this project's review for exemption.

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. Does this project fall within any exempt class as listed in sections 15301 through 15329 of the State CEQA Guidelines?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Is there a reasonable possibility that the project could have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Is the project inconsistent with any Federal, State, or local law or administrative requirement relating to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Will the project involve substantial public controversy regarding environmental issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of achieving long-term environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one which occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time while long-term impacts will endure well into the future.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Does the project have adverse impacts which are individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant? Cumulatively significant means that the incremental effects of an individual project are substantially adverse when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

On the basis of this initial evaluation, I find that the proposed project does not have the potential to cause a significant effect on the environment, and is therefore exempt from CEQA.

Megan Martin (mamartin@co.slo.ca.us)

7/19/2016

for Ellen Carroll, Environmental Coordinator

Date