**ATTACHMENT 4**

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) INFORMATION**

CEQA requires state and local agencies (public agencies) to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate them, if feasible. For an explanation of the CEQA process, please visit the California Natural Resources Agency’s frequently asked questions about CEQA:

<https://files.resources.ca.gov/ceqa/more/faq.html>

Applications selected for loan funding may meet the definition of a “project” for purposes of CEQA. (See Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq**.)** If you determine that the action in question is a project, the next step is to see if CEQA considers it to be exempt~~.~~ If the project is exempt, the applicant may file a Notice of Exemption at the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research. Exemptions are listed in:

Title 14 California Code of Regulations sections 15260 et seq. (statutory exemptions)

Title 14 California Code of Regulations sections 15300 et seq. (categorical exemptions)

See reference below to the entire CEQA statute and Guidelines, where the text of the exemptions can be reviewed.

Even if it appears that an exemption may apply, there may also be exceptions to that exemption. Therefore, you need to read the exemption and any exceptions carefully.

If no exemption applies, then the project will require the preparation of an environmental review document. Frequently, determining the proper type of an environmental review document will require the preparation of an initial study, that will then indicate whether the project will require a negative declaration/mitigated negative declaration or an environmental impact report.

Sample forms can be found on the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research website:

* Notice of Exemption form:

<http://opr.ca.gov/docs/NOE.pdf>

* Other forms and publications:

<https://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/>

* The entire CEQA statute and Guidelines can be found at:

<https://califaep.org/statute_and_guidelines.php>