

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE REVIEW INSTRUCTIONS

The Environmental Review is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to ensure the project does not negatively impact the surrounding environment and that the property itself will not have adverse environmental or health effects on occupants. All Continuum of Care (CoC) Program assistance is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act and applicable related federal environmental authorities. Conditional selection of projects under the CoC Homeless Assistance competition is subject to the environmental review requirements of 24 CFR 582.230, and 882.804(c) as applicable.

The County of Orange (County) will perform the Environmental Review and once approved, will sign the environmental review documentation. The Environmental Review documentation will be valid for the next five (5) years from the day dated. Please complete the Environmental Review form, if applicable, for your agency's current or proposed project.

Determining Whether an Environmental Review is Needed:

- **Exempt or Categorically Excluded Not Subject to section 58.5 (CENST) Projects** – As of Fall 2021, the HUD Los Angeles Field Office no longer requires completed environmental review forms for new or renewal CoC Program projects considered Exempt or CENST. The HUD Los Angeles Field Office completes a Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)/ Tenant-Based Leasing (TBL) CENST review covering all Southern California CoC projects.
- **Categorically Excluded Subject to Section 58.5 (CEST) Projects** - Permanent housing projects carrying out project-based rental assistance (PBRA) or sponsor-based rental assistance (SBRA) require the completion of a CoC limited scope environmental review. In addition, if a CoC project includes leased structures or leasing office space, the level of environmental review increases to CEST, regardless of project the component type.

The following documents will guide you through the environmental review:

1. **CoC Environmental Review Process (Exhibit A)**
2. **CoC Part 58 Environmental Review Flow Chart (Exhibit B)**
3. **Example Environmental Review Form (Exhibit C)**
4. **Limited Scope Environmental Review Instructions – CoC:**
<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/CoC-PT58-Env-Review-Instr.pdf>
5. **Limited Scope Environmental Review Template – CEST CoC Project:**
 - <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/Limited-Scope-Environmental-Review-Format-CoC.docx> (Word)
 - <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/Limited-Scope-Environmental-Review-Format-CoC.pdf> (PDF)

Per HUD guidelines (through HUD Exchange CoC Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS)), Environmental Reviews should be based on the building and the surrounding geography, and not on the actual unit. For example, if an Environmental Review was conducted on a multi-unit apartment complex within the last five years, a new unit in that building may be leased without completing a new environmental review.

However, for any scattered-site leased (this also includes sponsor-based and project-based rental assistance) units located in a building that has not received an environmental review within the last five (5) years, a limited scope review is required prior to signing a new lease and committing CoC Program funds to the unit.

Exhibit A: Continuum of Care (CoC) Environmental Review Process

1. Determine form to be used (See Exhibit B)
 - **Environmental Review for Continuum of Care (CoC) Leasing or Rental Assistance Project that is Categorically Excluded Subject to Section 58.5 (CEST).** If project is for leasing or rental assistance activities in the CoC Program, specifically sponsor-based and project-based rental assistance, that include no maintenance, repairs, or rehabilitation to the leased or rented properties, complete a CoC limited scope environmental review. (CoC Limited Scope Review format).
2. Complete Project Information
 - **Responsible Entity:** County of Orange
 - **State/Local Identifier:** CA-602
 - **Certifying Officer Name and Title:** Ernest Hernandez, Staff Specialist, Orange County Community Resources (OCCR)
 - Make sure to include project location and/or census tract and project description
3. Complete Funding Information
 - Include Grant Number/HUD Program/Funding Amount. Please submit a copy of the HUD Grant Award with environmental form.
 - If other uses of funds are anticipated on being used for the project, please include the additional funding amount
4. Complete Compliance with 24 CFR 58.5 and 58.6 Laws and Authorities section
 - For the CoC Limited Scope Review, this section is prepopulated. Only complete the sections with the Asterisk (*). These sections are Coastal Barrier Resources, Flood Insurance, Contamination and Toxic Substances, and Floodplain Management. Make sure to answer yes or no and complete the compliance determination column.
5. Please include any supporting documentation as appropriate such as the following:
 - Project Location Map (Google Maps <https://www.google.com/maps>)
 - Pictures of Project location exterior (Google Maps <https://www.google.com/maps>)
 - Project Location FEMA Map – Area of Minimal Flood Hazard: (<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>)
 - Attestation of Coastal Barrier Resources Act
 - HUD Grant Award Letter

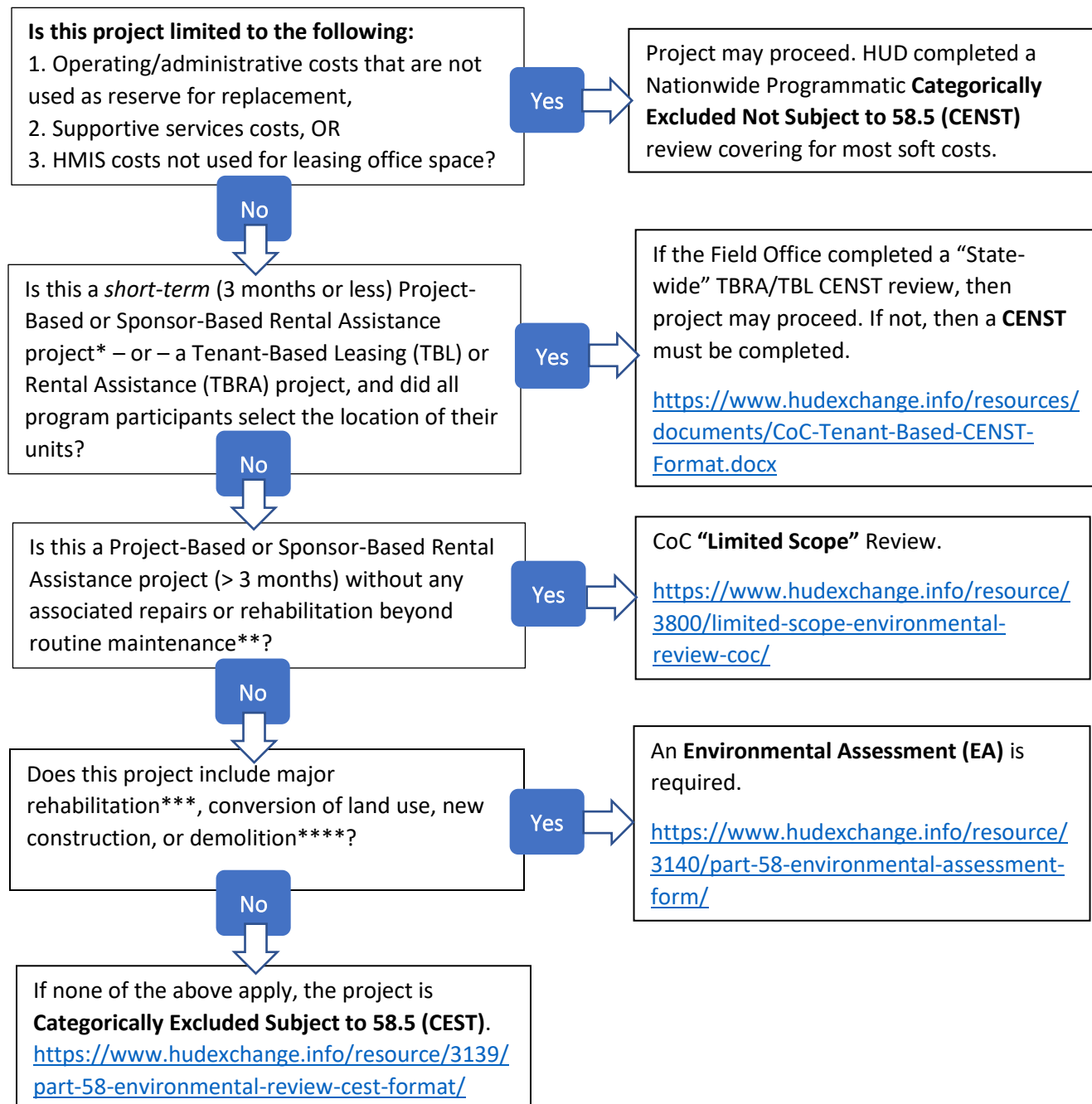
Questions and Environmental Review Form Submission

Completed forms and/or questions should be emailed to CareCoordination@ceo.oc.gov and Carbon Copy (Cc) Jasmin Miranda (jasmin.miranda@ceo.oc.gov).

Once the Environmental Review is reviewed by the Office of Care Coordination, the Office of Care Coordination will obtain final approval from Ernest Hernandez of County of Orange. Upon final approval, the Office of Care Coordination will provide confirmation to the agency that submitted the Environmental Review.

CoC Part 58 Flow Chart

This flowchart can be used by a CoC Responsible Entity to complete their environmental review under 24 CFR Part 58. This flowchart will help to identify how to complete environmental compliance based on activities involved in the project.



* Project-Based and Sponsor-Based rental assistance provided for 3 months or less is considered CENST short-term rental assistance under 24 CFR 58.35(b)(2).

** Routine maintenance is defined for purposes of environmental review at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3197/guidance-categorizing-activity-as-maintenance-environmental-regulations-24-cfr-parts-50-and-58/>

*** For purposes of determining level of review, “major rehabilitation” is rehabilitation that does not conform to the limitations listed in 24 CFR 58.35(a)(3).

**** Select “yes” if new construction or demolition falls outside the definition of an “individual action” in 24 CFR 58.35(a)(4). If proposed construction or demolition conforms to the requirements in that section, select “no.”

Exhibit C: Example Environmental Review Form (Revised 2026)

CoC Limited Scope Environmental Review Form for Continuum of Care Leasing or Rental Assistance Project that is Categorically Excluded Subject to Section 58.5 (CEST) Example



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
Development

451 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20410
www.hud.gov

espanol.hud.gov

Environmental Review for Continuum of Care Program Leasing or Rental Assistance Project that is Categorically Excluded Subject to Section 58.5 Pursuant to 24 CFR 58.35(a)(5)

This is a suggested format that may be used by Responsible Entities to document completion of a Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Limited Scope Review.

This CoC Program Limited Scope Review Format is to be used **only** for Project-Based leasing or Project-Based rental assistance activities without any associated repairs, rehabilitation, new construction, or other activities with physical impacts funded under the CoC Program.

Note: Project-Based and Sponsor-Based rental assistance provided for three (3) months or less is considered *short-term* rental assistance under 24 CFR 50.19(b)(12) and only requires a Categorically Excluded Not Subject To 58.5 (CENST) level of review. Short-term rental assistance may be covered using the CENST format: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/CoC-Tenant-Based-CENST-Format.docx>

Certain fields have been completed already based on the specifics of these program activities. It is the Responsible Entity's responsibility to ensure that all required fields (those marked with an asterisk) and analysis are completed. See link below for instructions on completing this form:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3800/limited-scope-environmental-review-coc/>

***NOTE:** Black text is example text, blue text is instructions

Project Information

***Project Name:** (Name as it appears in e-snaps)

***Responsible Entity:** County of Orange

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity): (Your Agency Name)

State/Local Identifier: CA-602

***Preparer:** (Should be someone from the agency who knows the program well and will maintain the files for a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) review)

***Certifying Officer Name and Title:** Ernest Hernandez, Staff Specialist, OC Community Resources

Consultant (if applicable): (Consultant name, if applicable)

This format is to be used for project-based leasing or rental assistance activities funded under the CoC Program only.

***Project Location:** (Enter the address of the project)

***Description of the Proposed Project [24 CFR 58.32]:** (Enter a brief description about the program. It should include the type of funding received (tenant-based rental assistance, the project term, funding for supportive services or operating costs), and can include the number of people housed, the type of treatment offered (i.e., substance use or mental health services), the number of units, and if there are other services offered.)

***Level of Environmental Review Determination:**

Categorically Excluded per 24 CFR 58.35(a), and subject to laws and authorities at §58.5, per 24 CFR 58.35(a)(5).

Funding Information

*Grant Number	*HUD Program	*Funding Amount
(Enter the grant number from HUD. It should look similar to this: CA0760J7077710)	Continuum of Care (CoC) Program	(Enter the grant amount for the HUD grant listed)

***Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount:** (Enter the grant amount for the HUD grant listed)

***Estimated Total Project Cost** (HUD and non-HUD funds): (Enter the grant amount for the HUD grant listed above and any additional grants the subject program receives)

Compliance with 24 CFR 58.5 and 58.6 Laws and Authorities

Record below the compliance or conformance determinations for each statute, executive order, or regulation. Provide credible, traceable, and supportive source documentation for each authority. Where applicable, complete the necessary reviews or consultations and obtain or note applicable permits or approvals. Clearly note citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references. Attach additional documentation as appropriate.

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
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This format is to be used for project-based leasing or rental assistance activities funded under the CoC Program only.

STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 58.6		
Airport Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes No ☐ ☒	This project consists only of leasing or rental assistance and is in compliance with the HUD's Airport Hazard regulations without further evaluation.
Coastal Barrier Resources Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	Yes No ☐ ☒	* This project location is in a state without Coastal Barrier Resources and is in compliance with the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.
Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	Yes No ☐ ☒	* This project is not located within a Special Flood Hazard Area. This project location is used for leasing only. Flood Insurance is not required.
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 & 58.5		
Clean Air Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	Yes No ☐ ☒	This project consists only of leasing or rental assistance and is in compliance with the Clean Air Act without further evaluation.
Coastal Zone Management Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	Yes No ☐ ☒	This project consists only of leasing or rental assistance and is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act without further evaluation.
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR 58.5(i)(2)	Yes No ☐ ☒	* This project location does not consist of any Contamination and Toxic Substances.
Endangered Species Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	Yes No ☐ ☒	This project consists only of leasing or rental assistance and is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act without further evaluation.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	Yes No ☐ ☒	This project consists only of leasing or rental assistance and is in compliance with HUD's Explosive and Flammable Hazards standards without further evaluation.
Farmlands Protection	Yes No	This project consists only of leasing or rental assistance and is in compliance with the

This format is to be used for project-based leasing or rental assistance activities funded under the CoC Program only.

Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	☐ Yes ☒ No	Farmland Protection Policy Act without further evaluation.
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	☐ Yes ☒ No	* This project location is not in a Floodway, Coastal High Hazard Area, or 100 Year Floodplain and is in compliance with Floodplain Management. OR The project location is in a .2 percent, 500-year floodplain but is not a critical action. The project is in compliance with Floodplain Management.
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	☐ Yes ☒ No	HUD has determined that leasing and rental assistance with no associated repairs, rehabilitation, or other activities with physical impacts has No Potential to Cause Effects under 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1) (see Appendix A). Therefore, this project is in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act without further obligations.
Noise Abatement and Control 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	☐ Yes ☒ No	This project consists only of leasing or rental assistance. HUD's Noise standards do not apply.
Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	☐ Yes ☒ No	This project consists only of leasing or rental assistance and is in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act without further evaluation.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5; 24 CFR Part 55 wetlands provisions	☐ Yes ☒ No	This project consists only of leasing or rental assistance without any new construction. Executive Order 11990 and Part 55 wetlands provisions do not apply to projects that do not involve new construction in a wetland.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	☐ Yes ☒ No	This project consists only of leasing or rental assistance and is in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act without further evaluation.

Mitigation Measures and Conditions

This format is to be used for project-based leasing or rental assistance activities funded under the CoC Program only.

Summarize below all mitigation measures either taken or required as a condition of approval of the project by the Responsible Entity to reduce, avoid, or eliminate adverse environmental impacts and to avoid non-compliance or non-conformance with the above-listed authorities and factors. These measures/conditions must be incorporated into project contracts, development agreements, and other relevant documents. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan.

N/A (If 'no' is selected for each field above, then no mitigation measures are required.)

***Determination:**

- ☒ This categorically excluded activity/project converts to **EXEMPT** per Section 58.34(a)(12), because it does not require any mitigation for compliance with any listed statutes or authorities, nor requires any formal permit or license; **Funds may be committed and drawn down** for this (now) EXEMPT project; OR
- ☐ This categorically excluded activity/project cannot convert to Exempt status because one or more statutes or authorities listed at Section 58.5 requires formal consultation or mitigation. Complete consultation/mitigation protocol requirements, **publish NOI/RROF, submit RROF (HUD 7015.15), and obtain "Authority to Use Grant Funds"** (HUD 7015.16) per Section 58.70 and 58.71 before committing or drawing down any funds; OR
- ☐ This project is not categorically excluded OR, if originally categorically excluded, is now subject to a full Environmental Assessment according to Part 58 Subpart E due to extraordinary circumstances (Section 58.35(c)).

Obtain the signatures below:

Preparer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name/Title/Organization: _____

Responsible Entity Agency Official Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name/Title: _____

This original, signed document and related supporting material must be retained on file by the Responsible Entity in an Environmental Review Record (ERR) for the activity/project (ref: 24 CFR Part 58.38) and in accordance with recordkeeping requirements for the HUD program(s).

Appendix A –



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

FEB 20 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR: CPD Division Directors
Regional Environmental Officers

FROM: *Danielle Schopp*
Danielle Schopp, Director, Office of Environment and
Energy, DGE

SUBJECT: Determination that Continuum of Care (CoC) Leasing and Rental
Assistance with no associated physical building activities have "No
Potential to Cause Effects" under Section 106 of the National Historic
Preservation Act and its implementing regulations 36 CFR Part 800

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has determined that leasing and rental assistance activities in the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program that include no maintenance, repairs, or rehabilitation to the leased or rented properties have "No Potential to Cause Effects," as described in 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1). These leasing and rental assistance activities provide transitional or permanent housing for the homeless in existing scattered site buildings with no associated physical changes to the buildings, and have no potential to cause effects on historic properties, assuming such properties were present. Neither HUD nor the grantees participating in the CoC Program have any further obligations for these projects under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) or 36 CFR Part 800. No consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), or other interested parties is required.

A copy of this memorandum in the Environmental Review Record for a qualifying individual CoC project will document compliance with Section 106, 36 CFR Part 800, 24 CFR Part 50, and 24 CFR Part 58 regarding historic properties.

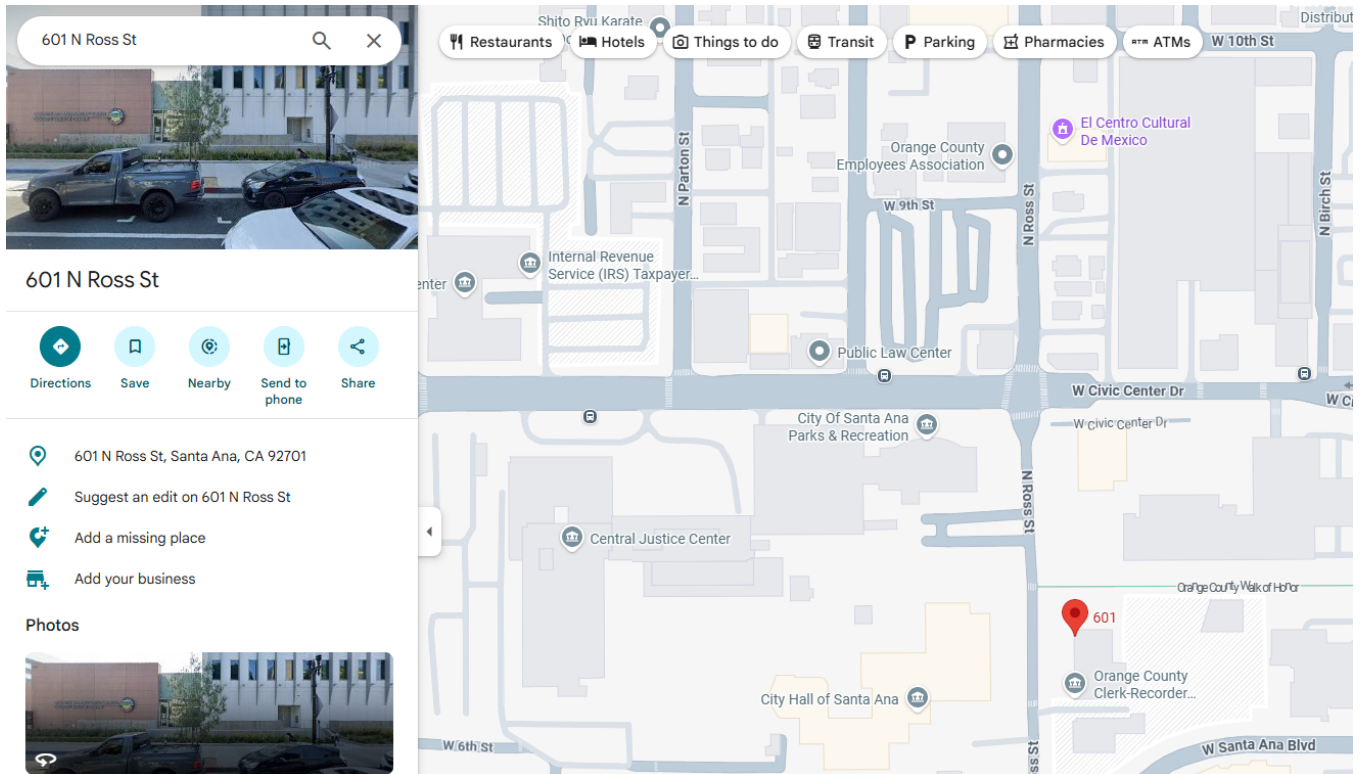
Leasing and rental assistance with associated unit or building repairs, rehabilitation, or new construction do not qualify for the treatment described in this memo. Likewise, other types of projects participating in the CoC Program, including repairs, rehabilitation, and new construction, do not qualify for the treatment described in this memo. These activities must be fully reviewed under the Section 106 process, including consultation with a SHPO, THPO and/or tribal authority, interested parties and the public, to aid HUD or the Responsible Entity in making an effect determination.

Please direct any questions regarding this memorandum to Nancy E. Boone, Federal Preservation Officer, at Nancy.E.Boone@hud.gov or 202-402-5718.

Supporting Documentation

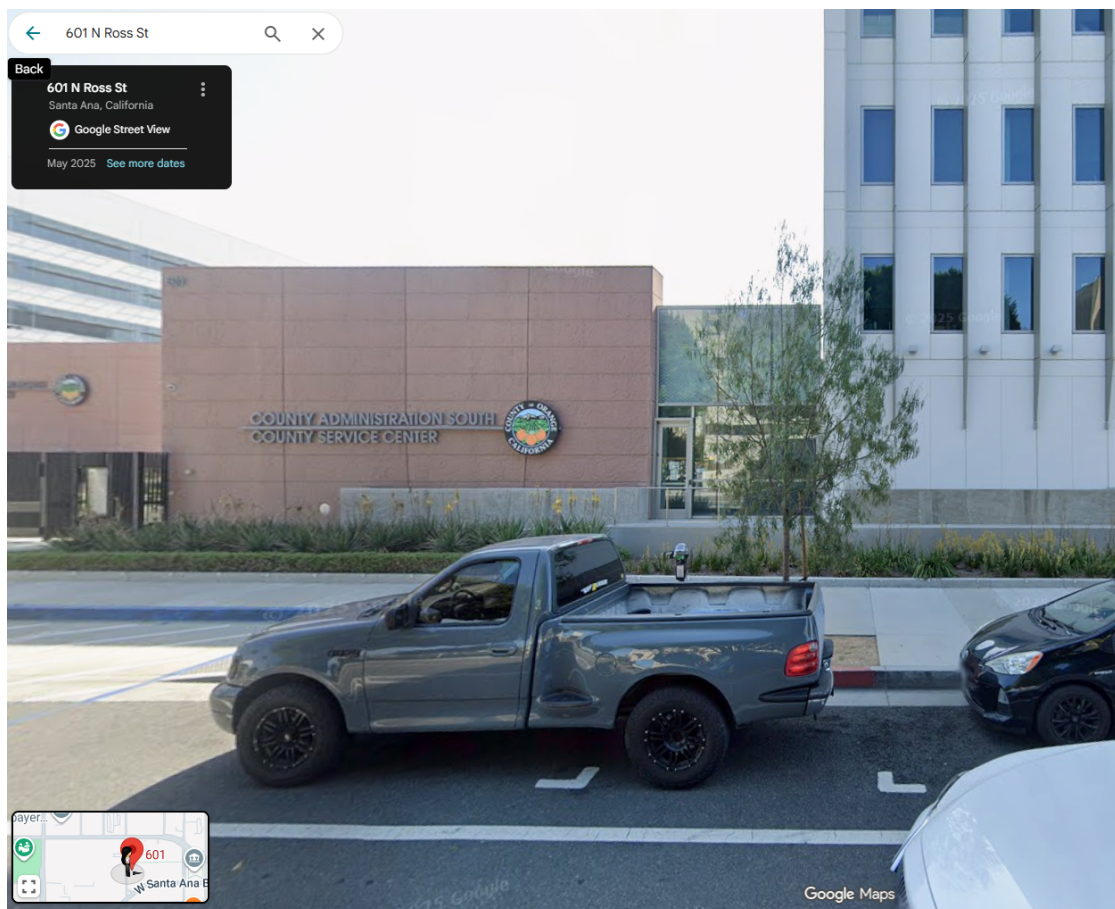
Map Source: Google Maps <https://www.google.com/maps>

Project Location Map



Map Source: Google Maps <https://www.google.com/maps>

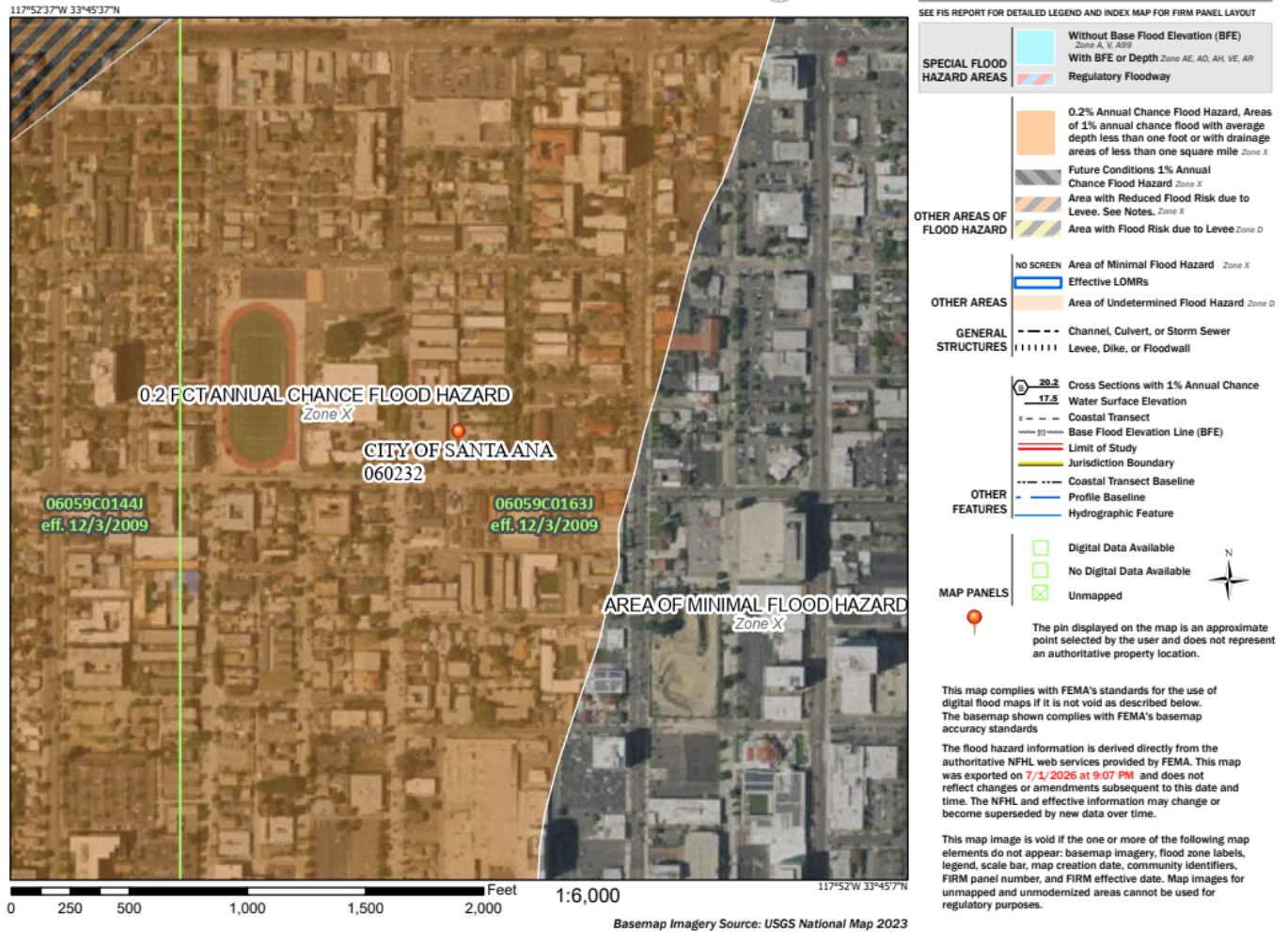
Pictures of Project location exterior



Supporting Documentation

Map Source: FEMA Flood Map <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>
Project Location FEMA Map – Area of Minimal Flood Hazard

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette



Supporting Documentation

(INSERT AGENCY LETTERHEAD)

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Environmental Review for Continuum of Care Leasing or Rental Assistance Project that is Categorically Excluded Subject to Section 58.5

(Enter CoC Project Name) located at (Enter CoC Project Address) is a project that is not in a state with Coastal Barrier Resources. (Enter CoC Project Name) is located in the state of California. Please see attached map of the Coastal Barrier Resources for reference.

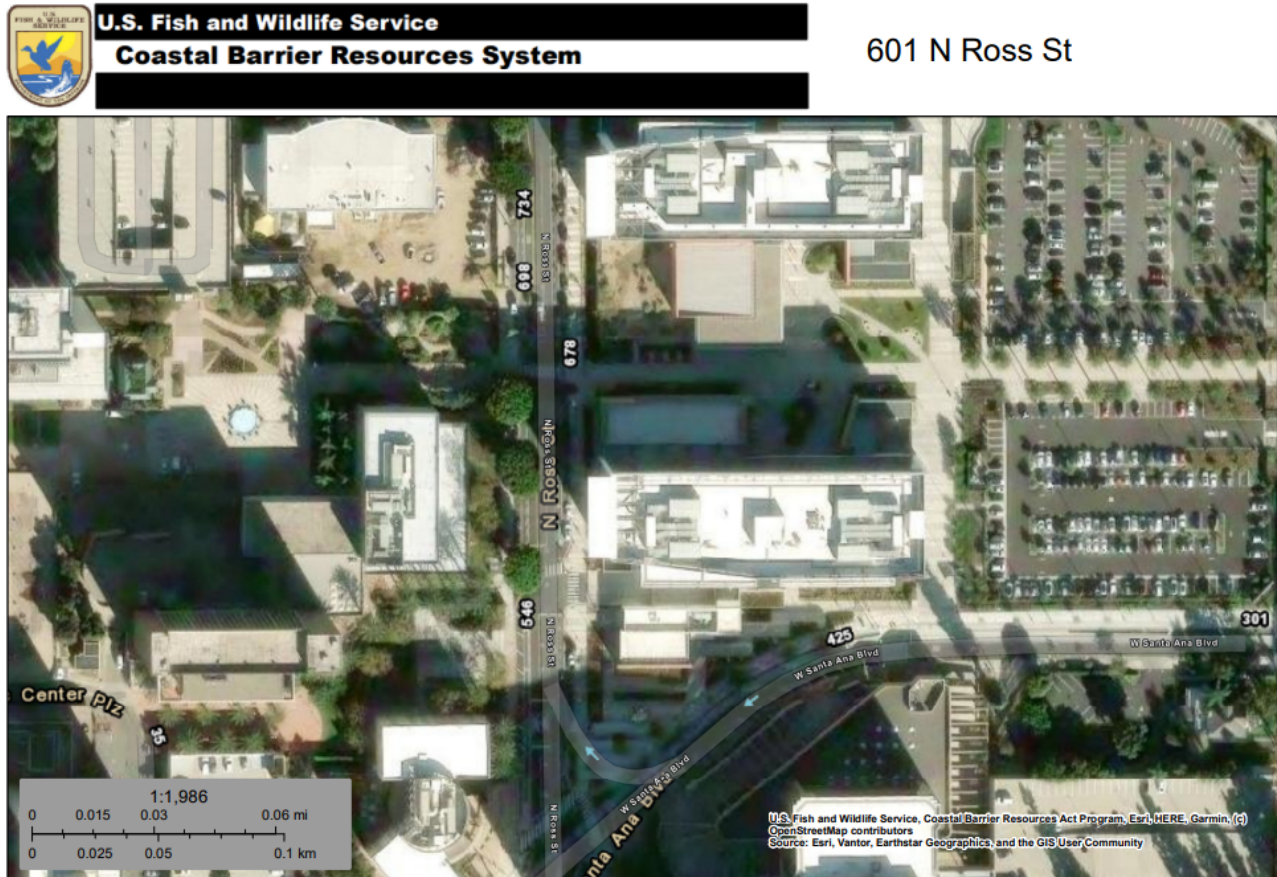
Sincerely,

(Signature)

Supporting Documentation

Map Source: Coastal Barrier Resources System Map - U.S Fish & Wildlife Service
(<https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/CBRSMapper-v2/>)

Coastal Barrier Resources System Map



July 1, 2026

CBRS Buffer Zone

CBRS Units

Otherwise Protected Area

System Unit

This map is for general reference only. The Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) boundaries depicted on this map are representations of the controlling CBRS boundaries, which are shown on the official maps, accessible at <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/official-coastal-barrier-resources-system-maps>. All CBRS related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the CBRS Mapper website.

The CBRS Buffer Zone represents the area immediately adjacent to the CBRS boundary where users are advised to contact the Service for an official determination (<https://www.fws.gov/service/coastal-barrier-resources-system-property-documentation>) as to whether the property or project site is located "in" or "out" of the CBRS.

CBRS Units normally extend seaward out to the 20- or 30-foot bathymetric contour (depending on the location of the unit). The true seaward

This page was produced by the CBRS Mapper