**Project Description**

The project will consist of installation of temporary, semi-transparent, movable curtains for the mural within the lobby of Santa Monica City Hall located at 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA. The curtains will consist of metal “chain mail” material, hang from the ceiling, will extend from the entrance door wall to the end of the murals, and will hang four feet from the side wall. Installation will not be in physical contact with the murals and will not have any impact on the physical material of the murals or floor tile. The curtains are designed to reduce float when the lobby is drafty and can withstand normal wear and tear from people moving or pulling on the curtains. The design was developed to ensure there will be no potential wear and tear on the murals and interior tile, including flooring, some of which is original.

**Reasons Why the Project is Exempt**

The project is categorically exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15331, Class 31 of the State Implementation Guidelines in that the project consists of movable transparent curtains which will be implemented in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings (1995), Weeks and Grimmer (Standards). The movable transparent curtains will be installed in front of tile murals located in the City Hall lobby.

The installation of the movable, transparent curtains as described above is consistent with the Standards, in particular Standards 5, 9 and 10. Installation of the curtains is consistent with Standard 5, in that the murals will be preserved. The installation of the temporary curtains will not obscure the murals from view, or alter the murals in any way, and the curtains are designed to be installed in a manner that is protective of the murals’ materials, features and finishes. The material for curtains was chosen for its transparency, the curtains will be hung far enough away from the wall for public viewing, and the curtains will further be movable, allowing for full viewing with the assistance of City staff. The installation of the curtains is also consistent with Standard 9 in that no historic materials will be destroyed, and the curtains are clearly differentiated from the old while still being compatible. The installation of the curtains is consistent with Standard 10 in that the curtains are designed to be a temporary measure, and, as such are fully removable. Upon removal, the essential form and integrity of the murals will be unimpaired.