

**ATTACHMENT 2: NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

**2023-2031 Housing Element Update**

**Case No. 22GPA-00000-00002**

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jessi Steele-Blossom, Planner  
Planning and Development Department

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 as defined in the State and County of Santa Barbara (County) guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

**APN(s):** Not applicable. The 2023-2031 Housing Element Update (HEU) will apply to all unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County.

**Case Nos.:** 22GPA-00000-00002

**Location:** Countywide

**Project Title:** 2023-2031 Housing Element Update

**Project Description:**

Case No. 22GPA-00000-00002 is a General Plan Amendment to adopt the HEU of the County Comprehensive Plan as required by State housing element law (Government Code [GC] Sections 65580 through 65589.11). The HEU would replace the *2015-2023 Housing Element Update*.

**Exempt Status:**


- Ministerial
- Statutory
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- No Possibility of Significant Effect

**Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section:** CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)

**Reasons to support exemption findings:**

The HEU is exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the “common sense exemption,” because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the HEU may have a significant effect on the environment. The HEU does not, in and of itself, approve any development project or other physical change to the environment. Additionally, the HEU does not rezone any properties to accommodate increased residential development. Rather, the HEU analyzes existing and projected housing needs, identifies governmental and nongovernmental constraints to housing development, and sets forth the goals, policies, and programs to plan for future housing development within the unincorporated county. Approval of any housing or other projects to implement the HEU will be subject to independent environmental review. For example, the

County and an environmental consultant, WSP, are preparing a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) that includes an analysis of impacts from future buildout of the potential rezones necessary to accommodate the County's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) plus the 15 percent buffer.



11/20/2023

Department/Division Representative

Date

Acceptance Date (date of final action on project): \_\_\_\_\_

Date Filed by County Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_