

ATTACHMENT A: FINDINGS OF APPROVAL

1.0 CEQA FINDINGS

1.1 CEQA EXEMPTION

Case No. 24GPA-00001: The Board of Supervisors (Board) finds that the proposed Comprehensive Plan Land Use Element amendments are exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3). Please see Attachment B, Notice of Exemption, to the Board Agenda Letter dated February 11, 2025, incorporated herein by reference.

Case No. 24GPA-00002: The Board finds that the proposed Coastal Land Use Plan amendments are exempt from environmental review under CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15265. Please see Attachment B, Notice of Exemption, to the Board Agenda Letter dated February 11, 2025, incorporated herein by reference.

Case No. 24ORD-00001: The Board finds the proposed County Land Use and Development Code ordinance amendments are exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3). Please see Attachment B, Notice of Exemption, to the Board Agenda Letter dated February 11, 2025, incorporated herein by reference.

Case No. 24ORD-00002: The Board finds that the proposed Montecito Land Use and Development Code ordinance amendments are exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3). Please see Attachment B, Notice of Exemption, to the Board Agenda Letter dated February 11, 2025, incorporated herein by reference.

Case No. 24ORD-00003: The Board finds that the proposed Article II, Coastal Zoning Ordinance, ordinance amendments are exempt from environmental review under CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15265. Please see Attachment B, Notice of Exemption, to the Board Agenda Letter dated February 11, 2025, incorporated herein by reference.

Old Town Orcutt Design Guidelines: The Board finds that the proposed guidelines amendments are exempt from environmental review under CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3). Please see Attachment B, Notice of Exemption, to the Board Agenda Letter dated February 11, 2025, incorporated herein by reference.

Los Alamos Bell Street Design Guidelines: The Board finds that the proposed guidelines amendments are exempt from environmental review under CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3). Please see Attachment B, Notice of Exemption, to the Board Agenda Letter dated February 11, 2025, incorporated herein by reference.

Montecito Architectural Guidelines and Development Standards: The Board finds that the proposed guidelines amendments are exempt from environmental review under CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15265. Please see Attachment B, Notice of Exemption, to the Board Agenda Letter dated February 11, 2025, incorporated herein by reference.

2.0 ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS

ARTICLE II COASTAL ZONING ORDINANCE, MONTECITO LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT CODE, AND COUNTY LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT CODE FINDINGS

Findings required for approval or conditional approval of Comprehensive Plan and Ordinance Amendments. In compliance with Section 35-180.6 of the Article II Coastal Zoning Ordinance, Section 35.494.060 of the Montecito Land Use and Development Code (MLUDC), and Section 35.104.060 of the County Land Use and Development Code (LUDC), prior to the approval or conditional approval of an application for a Comprehensive Plan amendment or a Zoning Ordinance amendment, the decision-maker shall first make all of the following findings:

2.1 The request is in the interests of the general community welfare.

The Board finds that the proposed ordinance and Comprehensive Plan amendments are in the interests of the general community welfare. The proposed ordinance amendments will provide new and revised regulations on outdoor lighting and signs in the inland and coastal areas of the County, in addition to making miscellaneous changes to the MLUDC, LUDC, and CZO to clarify and modernize requirements regarding setbacks, pool cabañas, exemptions, and short-term rental enforcement. These regulations will provide for orderly development within the County, reduce light trespass and light pollution, clarify requirements for signs and outdoor lighting, and make other portions of the MLUDC, LUDC, and CZO clearer and easier to interpret, apply, and enforce, all of which is in the interests of the general community welfare.

The proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments will update the Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan, the Los Alamos Community Plan, and the Eastern Goleta Valley

Community Plan to remove conflicts and redundancies with the ordinance amendments described above. This will ensure clear and consistent regulations across the County, which is in the interests of the general community welfare.

2.2 The request is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, the Coastal Land Use Plan, the requirements of the State planning and zoning laws, and this Article [Article II, CZO] and Development Code [LUDC and MLUDC].

The Board finds that the proposed ordinance and Comprehensive Plan amendments are consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan, including the Coastal Land Use Plan and all community area plans, the requirements of the State planning and zoning laws, and the CZO, MLUDC, and LUDC. The proposed ordinance amendments will update and standardize regulations regarding signs and outdoor lighting for consistency, and update and modernize other miscellaneous sections of the CZO, MLUDC, and LUDC as discussed in Finding 2.1 above. The proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments will update community area plans for consistency with the proposed ordinance amendments, ensuring that the proposed ordinance amendments do not conflict with any goals or policies of the County Comprehensive Plan or Coastal Land Use Plan. The proposed amendments do not amend or modify any of the existing resource protection policies and development standards that are contained in the Comprehensive Plan, including policies and standards of the Coastal Land Use Plan and the Article II Coastal Zoning Ordinance that are intended to protect coastal resources.

2.3 The request is consistent with good zoning and planning practices.

The Board finds that the proposed ordinance and Comprehensive Plan amendments are consistent with good zoning and planning practices. The proposed ordinance amendments will provide for orderly development of signs and lighting within the County, in addition to updating and modernizing miscellaneous portions of the LUDC, MLUDC, and CZO as discussed in Finding 2.1 above. The proposed amendments will protect against light trespass and light pollution, and standardize, consolidate, and clarify the regulations regarding signs and outdoor lighting. The ordinance amendments will be applied county-wide, providing a basic standard across the entire County, while still maintaining some community-specific requirements to ensure that community character is not impacted. The proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments will update community plans to maintain consistency across all County planning documents.

2.4 If the request is for an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, then the review authority shall also find that the request is deemed to be in the public interest.

The Board finds that the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments are in the public interest. The proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments will update the Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan, Los Alamos Community Plan, and Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan for consistency with the proposed ordinance amendments regarding outdoor lighting, without lessening the policies and standards in place to protect against light pollution. This will maintain consistency across County documents and ensure the regulations are clear for each different community plan area.