

ATTACHMENT 2: NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Case No. 24ORD-00010

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
FROM: Lila Spring, 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.

Case No.: 24ORD-00010

Location: Coastal Zone

Project Title: SB 35 Coastal Zone Ordinance Amendment

Project Description:

Case No. 24ORD-00010 amends Division 7, General Regulations; and Division 11, Permit Procedures, of Article II, the Coastal Zoning Ordinance (CZO), of Chapter 35, Zoning, of the Santa Barbara County Code, regarding the streamlined application review process for qualifying housing in compliance with Government Code (GC) Sections 65582.1 and 65913.4.

Exempt Status:

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


Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section: CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15265.

Reasons to support exemption findings: The following provides a brief discussion of the proposed ordinance amendment and why it would be exempt from CEQA. Additional details regarding the proposed amendment are included in the County Planning Commission staff report dated September 17, 2024 and the Montecito Planning Commission staff report dated

September 10, 2024, as incorporated herein by reference.

The proposed CZO amendment is exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), which states that “the activity is covered by the common sense exemption that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.” The proposed ordinance implements state housing law to create a streamlined application review process for qualifying housing in compliance with GC Sections 65582.1 and 65913.4. No physical development is proposed or approved as part of this project. Future development subject to the updated code sections would be statutorily exempt from CEQA as a ministerial, by-right project, in compliance with state law. Therefore, the proposed amendment is exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15265 statutorily exempts local government activities involving the preparation and adoption of local coastal program amendments from environmental review. The proposed CZO amendment affects portions of the county within the Coastal Zone and constitutes an amendment to the County’s Local Coastal Program. Therefore, the proposed CZO amendment is statutorily exempt from environmental review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15265.

11/20/24

Department/Division Representative Date

Acceptance Date (date of final action on project): _____

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____