

ATTACHMENT D: NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Case Nos. 24RZN-00002, 24ORD-00008

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 Nos.: 24RZN-00002, 24ORD-00008

Location: Coastal Zone

Project Title: California Coastal Commission Conditional Certification of the Local Coastal Program Amendment for Rezones for the 2023-2031 Housing Element Update

Project Description: Approval of the California Coastal Commission Conditional Certification of the Local Coastal Program Amendment for Case Nos. 24RZN-00002 and 24ORD-00008 to amend Division 4, Zoning Districts, Division 7, General Regulations, and the County Zoning Map of Article II, the Coastal Zoning Ordinance, of Chapter 35, Zoning, of the Santa Barbara County Code, to implement programs 1, 2, and 3 of the Santa Barabara County 2023-2031 Housing Element Update and to rezone certain parcels or portions of parcels to accommodate the 2023-2031 regional housing needs allocation plus the 15 percent buffer for lower- and moderate-income households.

Exempt Status:

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

Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section: CEQA Guidelines Sections 15265 and 15162

Reasons to support exemption findings: The following provides a brief discussion of the proposed amendment and why it would be exempt from CEQA. Additional details regarding the

proposed amendments are included in the County Board of Supervisors Board Agenda Letter, dated January 27, 2026.

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

Additionally, CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 states that no further environmental review is required when a project has been previously analyzed in an Environmental Impact Report and there are no substantial changes to the project, no new significant effects, and no new information showing that impacts would be more severe than previously identified. The Board of Supervisors certified the Program EIR for the 2023-2031 Housing Element Update on May 3, 2024, which analyzed the Housing Element rezone amendments, including the sites within the Coastal Zone. The acceptance of the Coastal Commission's suggested modifications does not change the scope of the project or introduce new impacts; therefore, the certified EIR remains sufficient, and the current action is exempt from further environmental review under CEQA.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Lila Spring

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Department/Division Representative: Lila Spring

Date: 01/13/2026

Acceptance Date: _____

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____