

# COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

## PLANNING COMMISSION

COUNTY ENGINEERING BUILDING  
123 E. ANAPAMU ST.  
SANTA BARBARA, CALIF. 93101-2058  
PHONE: (805) 568-2000  
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TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

PLANNING COMMISSION  
HEARING OF JULY 29, 2020

**RE: *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Compliance – Revisions to County Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA (County Guidelines) and Environmental Threshold and Guidelines (ETM)***

Hearing on the request of the Planning and Development Department (P&D) for the County Planning Commission to consider recommending that the Board of Supervisors:

- (1) Amend the County Guidelines and the ETM to conform to minor revisions to the California Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA (State CEQA Guidelines), which took effect in 2019, and by revising guidelines that address quality of life and noise issues; and
- (2) Determine that amendments to conform to State CEQA Guidelines and clarify County procedures are not a project pursuant to the provisions of Sections 15060(c)(3) and 15378(b)(5), and amendments to the quality of life guidelines and noise thresholds are categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15308 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA.

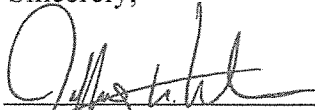
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Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

At the Planning Commission hearing of July 29, 2020, Commissioner Cooney moved, seconded by Commissioner Parke and carried by a vote of 5 to 0 to:

1. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors (Board) determine that amendments to the County Guidelines and the ETM to conform to State CEQA Guidelines and clarify County procedures are not a project pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(3) and 15378(b)(5) and amendments to the quality of life guidelines and noise thresholds are categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15308 of the State CEQA Guidelines (Attachment A of the staff report dated July 22, 2020); and
2. Adopt a resolution recommending that the Board approve amendments to the County Guidelines and the ETM (Attachment B of the staff report dated July 22, 2020) with the recommendation to retain reference to the impact classification of “impacts beneficial to the environment.”

Sincerely,



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Jeff Wilson  
Secretary Planning Commission

cc: Case File  
Planning Commission File  
Jeff Wilson, Assistant Director  
Deputy County Counsel  
Julie Harris, Planner  
Stephen Counts Imara, Planner

**Attachments:**

**Attachment B – Planning Commission Resolution**

- Exhibit 1: Attachment C to the Planning Commission Staff Report dated July 22, 2020 – Board of Supervisors Resolution and Amendments to the County Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA
- Exhibit 2: Attachment D to the Planning Commission Staff Report dated July 22, 2020 – Board of Supervisors Resolution and Amendments to the Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual

JW/dmv

ATTACHMENT B

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF RECOMMENDING TO THE BOARD )  
OF SUPERVISORS SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE )  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA GUIDELINES FOR THE )  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CALIFORNIA ) RESOLUTION NO.: 20 - 06  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT OF 1970 AND THE )  
ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLDS AND GUIDELINES )  
MANUAL TO CONFORM TO AMENDMENTS TO THE )  
STATE CEQA GUIDELINES EFFECTIVE 2019, AND TO )  
AMEND QUALITY OF LIFE GUIDELINES AND NOISE )  
THRESHOLDS. )

WITH REFERENCE TO THE FOLLOWING:

- A. The *Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act* (State CEQA Guidelines) direct each public agency to adopt objectives, criteria, and specific procedures consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines for administering its responsibilities under CEQA (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15022).
- B. The State CEQA Guidelines encourage each public agency to develop, adopt, and publish thresholds of significance that the agency uses in the determination of the significance of environmental effects (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.7(b)).
- C. On September 12, 1988, the Board of Supervisors adopted the *County of Santa Barbara Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act* (County Guidelines), in order to provide County agencies, applicants, and the public with definitions, procedures, and forms to implement CEQA and to supplement the State CEQA Guidelines.
- D. On September 12, 1988, the Board of Supervisors adopted the *County of Santa Barbara Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual* (ETM).
- E. The County Planning Commission now finds that it is in the interest of an efficient government to recommend that the Board of Supervisors amend the County Guidelines to conform to procedural amendments to the State CEQA Guidelines developed by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, which took effect in 2019. The amendments to the County Guidelines are included as Exhibit 1 (Attachment C of the Planning Commission staff report dated July 22, 2020), hereto incorporated by reference.
- F. The County Planning Commission now finds that it is in the public interest of the County of Santa Barbara to recommend that the Board of Supervisors amend the ETM to (1) make minor amendments that conform to procedural amendments to the State CEQA Guidelines,

(2) make minor revisions to the quality of life guidelines and noise thresholds, (3) revise all references of Class I impacts, Class II impacts, Class III impacts, and Class IV impacts to significant and unavoidable impacts, significant but mitigable impacts, insignificant impacts, and no impact, respectively, to be consistent with updated terminology in the County Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA, and (4) renumber section headings, as needed. The amendments to the ETM are included as Exhibit 2 (Attachment D of the Planning Commission staff report dated July 22, 2020), hereto incorporated by reference.

- G. The amendments are consistent with the policies of the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan (including the Coastal Land Use Plan) and Chapter 35, Zoning, of the Santa Barbara County Code.
- H. The Governor of California declared an emergency on March 4, 2020, and issued Stay-at-Home Executive Order N-33-20 on March 19, 2020, to protect the health and well-being of all Californians and to slow the spread of the pandemic coronavirus COVID-19.
- I. The Governor of California issued Executive Order N-29-20 on March 17, 2020, which authorized local legislative bodies to hold public meetings via teleconferencing and to make public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically to all members of the public seeking to observe and to address the local legislative body; and such a body need not make available any physical location from which members of the public may observe the meeting and offer public comment, which supersedes the process defined in the County Guidelines.
- J. The County Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on July 29, 2020, in compliance with the Governor's Executive Orders, at which hearing the amendments to the County Guidelines and ETM were explained and comments invited from the persons in attendance.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED as follows:

1. The above recitations are true and correct.
2. The County Planning Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, following the required noticed public hearing, approve and adopt the aforementioned recommendations of this Planning Commission.
3. A certified copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Board of Supervisors.
4. The Chair of this Commission is hereby authorized and directed to sign and certify all documents and other materials in accordance with this Resolution to show the aforementioned action by the County Planning Commission.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 29 day of July, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Cooney, Bridley, Parke, Ferini, Blough

NOES:

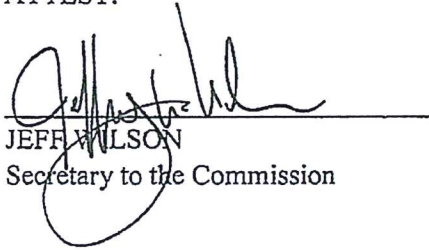
ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:



LAURA M. BRIDLEY, Chair  
Santa Barbara County Planning Commission

ATTEST:



JEFF WILSON  
Secretary to the Commission

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MICHAEL C. GHIZZONI  
COUNTY COUNSEL

BY   
Deputy County Counsel

Exhibit 1: Attachment C to the Planning Commission Staff Report dated July 22, 2020 – Board of Supervisors Resolution and Amendments to the County Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA

Exhibit 2: Attachment D to the Planning Commission Staff Report dated July 22, 2020 – Board of Supervisors Resolution and Amendments to the Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual