MAYOR
Valerie Amezcua
MAYOR PRO TEM
Benjamin Vazquez
COUNCILMEMBERS
Phil Bacerra
Johnathan Ryan Hernandez
Jessie Lopez
David Penaloza
Thai Viet Phan

CITY MANAGER
Alvaro Nuñez
CITY ATTORNEY
Sonia R. Carvalho
CITY CLERK
Jennifer L. Hall

CITY OF SANTA ANA

PLANNING AND BUILDING AGENCY

20 Civic Center Plaza ● P.O. Box 1988
Santa Ana, California 92702
www.santa-ana.org

September 19, 2025

Orange County Clerk-Recorder
County Administration South
601 North Ross Street
Santa Ana, CA 92702

To Whom It May Concern:

Please post the following Notice of Exemption (NOE). **All fees should be charged to the City of Santa Ana account with the County Clerk.**

We kindly ask that you mail us a copy of each filed Notice of Exemption.

Please send the filed copy to:

Gema Zapien, Acting Planning Commission Secretary
City of Santa Ana
20 Civic Center Plaza
P.O. Box 1988 (M-20)
Santa Ana, CA 92702
GZapien@santa-ana.org
(714) 667-2732

Thank you for your assistance,

Siri A. Champion
Senior Planner
(714) 667-2751
SChampion@santa-ana.org

Enclosure

SANTA ANA CITY COUNCIL

Valerie Amezcua, Mayor, vamezcua@santa-ana.org
Benjamin Vazquez, Mayor Pro Tem, Ward 2, bvazquez@santa-ana.org
Thai Viet Phan, Ward 1, tphan@santa-ana.org
Jessie Lopez, Ward 3, jessielopez@santa-ana.org
Phil Bacerra, Ward 4, pbacerra@santa-ana.org
Johnathan Ryan Hernandez, Ward 5, jryanhernandez@santa-ana.org
David Penaloza, Ward 6, dpenaloza@santa-ana.org

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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

From the Requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

To: COUNTY CLERK/County of Orange
P.O. Box 238
Santa Ana, CA 92702-0238

From: City of Santa Ana
P.O. Box 1988
20 Civic Center Plaza
Santa Ana, CA 92702

Contact: Siri Champion, Senior Planner
Phone: (714) 667-2751
Email: SChampion@santa-ana.org

Project Title: 2nd Reading of a Zoning Ordinance to amend Chapter 41 and an Ordinance Amendment to amend Chapter 8 to regulate group homes and modify land use definitions and adoption of a resolution establishing associated fees.

Date of Approval: September 16, 2025

Project Number(s): Zoning Ordinance Amendment (ZOA) No. 2025-01, Ordinance Amendment (OA) No. 2025-01, and Resolution No. 2025-039

Project Location: Citywide

City: Santa Ana **County:** Orange **ER Number:** 2025-43

Project Description: An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Santa Ana to establish regulations for the location, licensing, permitting, and operational requirements related to group homes. The proposed amendment also includes modifications to definitions. In addition, the applicant is requesting adoption of a resolution amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Miscellaneous Fees Schedule to establish a new fee for the review of Group Home Special Use Permit applications and a new fee for the review of Group Home Operator's Permit applications.

Applicant Name: City of Santa Ana
Applicant Address: 20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92702
Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Santa Ana
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Santa Ana

Exempt Status:
☐ Ministerial (Sec. 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 15269 (b through e))

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☒ General Rule (Sec. 15061(b)(3)/(5))
☐ Statutory Exemption:
☐ Categorical Exemption:
☒ Other: Sec. 15060(c)(2), 15060(c)(3), and 15301 (Cass 1 – Existing Facilities)

Reason(s) Why Project is Exempt from CEQA: Pursuant CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, the adoption of this Ordinance is exempt from review pursuant to sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because it will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. The project is also exempt from CEQA pursuant to section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. Moreover, the project is categorically exempt from further review per Section 15301 (Class 1 – Existing Facilities) of the CEQA Guidelines. The Class 1 exemption applies to the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The project proposes to adopt regulations pertaining to location, licensing, permitting, and operating standards for group homes, and will not expand the existing use. None of the exceptions enumerated in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply to the Class 1 exemption applicable here. The adoption of the fee resolution is exempt from CEQA review because it is not a “project” as defined in Section 15378 of the CEQA Guidelines.

City Contact: Siri A. Champion **Title:** Senior Planner **Telephone:** (714) 667-2751

Signature: _____ **Date:** September 25, 2025

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