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RECEIPT # 15151793

1025-241

CEQA

Transmittal Memorandum for 2025

Attach one transmittal memorandum to the front of the original CEQA document. Clip copies in the back.

- 1) If notice requires F&W receipt, you must provide a minimum of 3 copies of the notice.
- 2) If notice does not require F&W receipt, you must provide a minimum of 2 copies of the notice.

RECEIVED  
KERN COUNTY

OCT 22 2025

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA  
AUDITOR CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK  
BY *[Signature]* DEPUTY

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

LEAD AGENCY City of Delano

PROJECT TITLE City of Delano Housing Element Update

FILED  
KERN COUNTY

OCT 23 2025

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA  
AUDITOR CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK  
BY *[Signature]* DEPUTY

PROJECT APPLICANT City of Delano

PHONE NUMBER (661) 720-2220

PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS: 1015 11<sup>th</sup> Ave

CITY Delano STATE CA ZIP CODE 93215

WORK ORDER # N/A  30-Day Posting  35-Day Posting  45-Day Posting  Other

CONTACT PERSON Jose Lara PHONE NUMBER (661) 721-2226

CHECK DOCUMENT BEING FILED:

- Notice of Availability ..... No Fee
- Notice of Intent ..... No Fee
- Notice of Preparation ..... No Fee
- Notice of Public Hearing ..... No Fee
- Other ..... No Fee
- Environmental Impact Report (EIR) ..... \$4123.50
  - Previously paid F&W (must attach F&W receipt) F&W Receipt Number# \_\_\_\_\_
  - DFG No Effect Determination (F&W letter must be attached) ..... No Fee
  - County Administrative Fee ..... \$50.00
- Mitigated Negative Declaration or Negative Declaration ..... \$2968.75
  - Previously paid F&W (must attach F&W receipt) F&W Receipt Number# \_\_\_\_\_
  - DFG No Effect Determination (F&W letter must be attached) ..... No Fee
  - County Administrative Fee ..... \$50.00
- Notice of Exemption ..... No Fee
  - County Administrative Fee ..... \$50.00

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Additional copies to be returned to: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Method of return:  Hold for pick-up/Call # \_\_\_\_\_  Interoffice Mail

PAYMENT METHOD: ALL APPLICABLE FEES MUST BE PAID AT THE TIME OF FILING

- JV - Ledger Account \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Center \_\_\_\_\_ Fund \_\_\_\_\_
- Money Order
- Check

726089

Notice of Environmental Document  
Posted by County Clerk on 10/23/2025  
and for 30 days thereafter, Pursuant to  
Section 21152(C), Public Resources Code



**Kern County  
Auditor Controller**

1115 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301-4639  
Phone: 661-868-3599

Thursday Oct 23 2025 04:29:11 PM

<b>CEQA - County Clerk Fee</b>	<b>50.00</b>
26089	

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<b>Total</b>	<b>50.00</b>
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Telecheck 0048085	50.00
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Thank you for your payment.  
Have a great day!

Receipt #: 1677MC-20251023-17

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RECEIPT # 15151743

Print Form

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044  
  
County Clerk  
County of: Kern  
1115 Truxtun Ave  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

From: (Public Agency): City of Delano  
1015 11th Avenue  
Delano, CA 93215

FILED  
KERN COUNTY

OCT 23 2025

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA  
AUDITOR/CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK  
BY *[Signature]* DEPUTY

Project Title: City of Delano Housing Element Update

Project Applicant: City of Delano

Project Location - Specific:  
Throughout City of Delano

Project Location - City: Delano Project Location - County: Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:  
The City of Delano (City) is undergoing a Housing Element Update, or 6th Cycle Housing Element, for the planning period 2023 to 2031, in adherence to California's housing-element law and subject to California Department of Housing and Community Development enforcement authority. California's housing-element law requires local governments (e.g. cities) to update their housing elements at least once every eight years to adequately address the housing needs and demand of its citizens.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Delano

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Delano

- Exempt Status: (check one):
- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
  - Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
  - Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
  - Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: CEQA Guidelines 15061 (b)(3)
  - Statutory Exemptions. State code number: Public Resources Code 21080.085

Reasons why project is exempt:  
See attachment.

Lead Agency  
Contact Person: Jose Lara Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 661-720-2226

- If filed by applicant:
1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
  2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ■ Yes No

Signature: *[Signature]* Date: 10/21/2025 Title: Interim Planner

■ Signed by Lead Agency    Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

Notice of Environmental Document  
Posted by County Clerk on 10/23/2025  
and for 30 days thereafter, Pursuant to  
Section 21152(C), Public Resources Code

26089

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## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**To:**

Office of Planning and Research  
Post Office Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**Project Title:**

City of Delano Housing Element Update

**Project Applicant and Location:**

City of Delano  
Community Development Department  
1015 11th Avenue  
Delano, CA 93215  
Kern County

**Contact Person and Phone Number:**

Ricardo Chavez  
City Clerk  
(661) 721-3300

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The City of Delano (City) is undergoing a Housing Element Update, or 6th Cycle Housing Element, for the planning period 2023 to 2031, in adherence to California's housing-element law and subject to California Department of Housing and Community Development enforcement authority. California's housing-element law requires local governments (e.g. cities) to update their housing elements at least once every eight years to adequately address the housing needs and demand of its citizens. State housing legislation requires the identification of housing sites to accommodate housing needs based on the City's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), for all income levels. This Housing Element Update identifies strategies and programs to improve existing affordable housing; provide adequate housing sites; assist in development of affordable housing; removing governmental and other constraints to facilitate housing development; and promoting equal housing opportunities. As part of this project to adopt the updated Housing Element, the City is also adopting an ordinance rezoning several sites to provide adequate housing sites in the City, which will enable this Housing Element to be certified by the State Department of Housing and Community Development as compliant with state housing law.

**PROJECT LOCATION**

The City of Delano is in the southern portion of San Joaquin Valley, in the northern part of Kern County just south of Tulare County. It encompasses approximately 19 square miles. To the north are the Cities of Fresno (75 miles), Sacramento (240 miles), and San Francisco (250 miles). To the south are the Cities of Shafter (18 miles), Bakersfield (30 miles) and Los Angeles (140 miles). Regional access to the City is provided by State Route (SR) 99 and SR 155. SR 99, a major freeway, runs in a north-south direction

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through the City and for several hundred miles in each beyond the City, connecting Northern California to Southern California. SR 99 is currently undergoing improvements from four lanes to six lanes. SR 155, an east-west, two lane, undivided highway in the study area exists east of SR 99. This portion of SR 155 is classified as a major arterial and is known as Garces Highway. SR 155 connects to the Sequoia National Forest entrance east of the City and the Kern National Wildlife Refuge to the west. The geographic area covered by the Housing Element is within the City limits of Delano. Figures I-1 and I-2 show Delano's regional location and City boundaries.

## **EXISTING CITY CHARACTERISTICS**

### **Land Use**

The City of Delano's Planning Area boundary encompasses incorporated and unincorporated territory in and around the City. In Delano's case, the Planning Area and the sphere of influence (SOI) are the same; the Planning Area does not extend past the SOI. Delano's City limit encompasses an area of about 12,099 acres. Land use within Delano's city limit includes agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial, and community facilities. Community facilities include elementary, middle, and high school; community college; and park uses. The City of Delano's SOI includes approximately 20,856 additional acres of unincorporated land. Land uses within the unincorporated area of the SOI are predominantly uses permitted for exclusive agricultural zones districts.

### **Demographics**

The 2020 Census-American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates Data Profile indicates Delano has a population of 50,843 people and a population density of 3,708 people per square mile. According to the 2022 ACS, the racial composition of Delano consists of the following:

- Hispanic or Latino (of any race) 75.7%
- White Alone 34%
- Black or African American 4.3%
- Indian American and Alaska Native 0.8%
- Asian Alone 14.1%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 0.2%
- Two or More Races 27.2%

### **Employment**

Delano residents are employed in various industries ranging from agricultural, health care, retail, educational, and manufacturing services. In 2022, there were 18,493 persons over the age of 16 in the Delano labor force which represents about 36 percent of Delano's total population of 50,843 residents. The top three industries which employ the greatest number of persons include the "agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting" industry which employed 31.5 percent of the labor force followed by the "construction" industry, at 2.6 percent of the labor force, and the "manufacturing" industry at 5.5 percent of the labor force.

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### Housing

According to the 2020 Census, 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, the total number of housing units in Delano was 11,500 and the overall vacancy rate was 4.5 percent. Single-family dwellings make up 77 percent of all housing units. The following table indicates the existing number and types of housing units in Delano.

Type	Number	Percentage
Single-Family Detached	8,852	77%
Single-Family Attached	118	1%
Multi-Family 2-4 Units	961	8.3%
Multi-Family 5 or More Units	1,111	9.7%
Mobile Homes	458	4%
<b>Total Housing Units</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The following table indicates the age of Delano's existing housing stock. The highest number of units constructed in Delano occurred between 1980-1999 (3,984 units). While the lowest number of housing units built occurred between 2010-2019 (451 units).

Decade Built	Delano Number of Units
1939 or Earlier	420
1940 to 1959	2,288
1960 to 1979	2,327
1980 to 1999	3,984
2000 to 2009	2,030
2010 to 2019	451
2020 & Later	0
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>11,500</b>

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## **DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE, AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT:**

This Housing Element Update, or 6th Cycle Housing Element, identifies strategies and programs to focus on: 1) conserving and improving existing affordable housing; 2) providing adequate housing sites; 3) assisting in the development of affordable housing; 4) removing governmental and other constraints to facilitate housing development; and 5) promoting equal housing opportunities.

The 2023-2031 Delano Housing Element Update consists of the following major components:

- The geographic location of the City and the role of the Housing Element in the City of Delano.
- An analysis of the City's demographic and housing characteristics and trends.
- An evaluation of resources and opportunities available to address housing issues.
- A review of potential market, governmental, and environmental constraints to meeting the City's identified housing needs.
- The Housing Action Plan for the 2023-2031 planning period.
- A review of the City's accomplishments during the previous planning period.
- A detailed inventory of the suitable sites for housing development.
- Record of the community engagement activities and public participation.

The City of Delano Housing Element is one of seven General Plan Elements mandated by California State law. It is intended to provide citizens and public officials with an understanding of the housing needs in the community and set forth an integrated set of policies and programs aimed at the attainment of defined goals. More specifically, the Housing Element is intended to:

- Provide comprehensive housing-related information through compilation of data from numerous sources.
- Provide an estimate of present and future housing needs and constraints by examining population characteristics and growth trends, as well as the current condition of the housing stock.
- Act as a tool for coordination between governmental bodies and the local building industry.
- Provide direction for future planning programs to ensure that sufficient consideration is given to housing goals and policies.
- Establish and portray community goals and policies relative to housing through the identification of existing stated and implicit goals and the identification of housing needs and problems.
- Establish and identify programs intended to attain and implement the community's goals and policies, taking into consideration the feasibility of those programs; and act as a meaningful guide to decision-makers considering housing-related issues.
- The beneficiaries of the Project include residents of Delano, Kern County, and the State of California.

Concurrently, the City will have begun a comprehensive update of its General Plan (2045 City of Delano General Plan Update). As the General Plan is amended, it will be reviewed for consistency with the Housing Element to maintain an internally consistent general plan to comply with State law. This Housing Element seeks to identify and avoid potential hazards, prioritizing the needs of disadvantaged

communities to guide zoning and development regulations in the City.

### Regional Housing Needs Assessment

The Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) is a key requirement for local governments to plan for anticipated growth. The RHNA quantifies the anticipated need for housing within each jurisdiction for the 6th Housing Element cycle on an eight-year projection planning period. This planning period extends from 2023 to 2031. On August 31, 2021, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) provided the Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG) with its RHNA determination. As shown on the table below:

Very Low Income	Low Income	Moderate Income	Above Moderate Income	RHNA Total
324*	206	369	967	1,886

\*Per state law, half of the very-low units can be assumed to be in the extremely low category instead of using available US Census Data for calculation<sup>[1]</sup>. Source: HCD 2023

[1] <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/extremely-low-income-housing-needs>

### Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

CEQA statute, Public Resource Code (PRC) Section 21065, defines a “project” as any activity undertaken by a public agency that involves the exercise of discretionary powers and that may result in direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change to the environment. If it can be seen with certainty that the project in question will not have a significant effect on the environment, then the project is considered a project exempt from CEQA (PRC Section 15061 (b)(3)).

A Housing Element is a guidance and policy document to promote equity for a City’s housing supply. A Housing Element does not grant discretionary approval, or land entitlements, for the construction and operation of future housing developments. Planning applications for individual housing developments would be subject to the City of Delano’s approval and would need to comply with CEQA for any potentially significant impacts to the environment for construction and operation of the housing development, at the time of application for City permits and approvals. The 2023-2031 Housing Element Update would not result in physical impacts to the environment because its use is for policies, programs, and actions to adequately address the housing needs and demands of the citizens of the City of Delano. Its use is not to provide land entitlements for any individual housing development. The City of Delano’s 2023-2031 Housing Element Update is exempt from CEQA because it can be seen with certainty that the project would not have an impact on the physical environment. CEQA Exemption 15061 (b)(3) states the following:

*The activity is covered by the commonsense exemption in 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.*

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Furthermore, the related ordinance that rezones sites as part of this project will provide adequate housing sites, implementing Program 1 of this Housing Element. This rezoning ordinance is exempt from CEQA under CEQA Exemption 15061 (b)(3) as it changes development review procedures to conform with existing state law, does not give any entitlement approvals to any development projects, and is necessary to implement the rezoning of sites in accordance with Program 1 of the Housing Element . This ordinance is also exempt from CEQA under Public Resources Code Section 21080.085, as it is a rezoning that implements a schedule of actions contained in the approved housing element.

In conclusion, this Housing Element Update for the City of Delano is a guidance and policy document that identifies strategies and programs for future housing in the City. It does not result in physical change to the environment and thus does not have the potential to cause a significant impact on the environment. Therefore, adoption of this Housing Element and ordinance is exempt under the CEQA Guidelines 15061 (b)(3), commonsense exemption, and the ordinance, which rezones sites implementing Program 1 of this Housing Element, is exempt under Public Resources Code 21080.085.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:**

City of Delano

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:**

Roman Dowling, Interim Community Development Director, City of Delano

**Exempt Status: (check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec 21080(b)(1); 15268
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a); 15269(a);
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080 (b)(4); 15269(b)(c);
- Categorical Exemption, State Type, and section number: *CEQA Guidelines 15061 (b)(3)*
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: *Public Resources Code 21080.085*


**Lead Agency**

Contact Person: Ricardo Chavez

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (661) 721-3300

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public Agency approving the project? (  Yes  No)

Signature  Date: 10/21/25 Title: CITY CLERK  
Signed by Lead Agency/Signed by Applicant



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2025 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE**  
**CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/25) Previously DFG 753.5a

**Print**    **StartOver**    **Save**

RECEIPT NUMBER:  
 15 — 10232025 — 15151793  
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

**SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.**

LEAD AGENCY <b>CITY OF DELANO</b>	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE <b>10/23/2025</b>
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING <b>Kern</b>	DOCUMENT NUMBER <b>26089</b>	

PROJECT TITLE  
**CITY OF DELANO HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE**

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME <b>CITY OF DELANO</b>	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER <b>(661) 720-2220</b>
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS <b>1015 11TH AVE</b>	CITY <b>DELANO</b>	STATE <b>CA</b>
		ZIP CODE <b>93215</b>

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

- Local Public Agency   
  School District   
  Other Special District   
  State Agency   
  Private Entity


**CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:**

- |   |            |    |                   |
|---|------------|----|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)  | \$4,123.50 | \$ | <u>0.00</u>       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)   | \$2,968.75 | \$ | <u>0.00</u>       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW         | \$1,401.75 | \$ | <u>0.00</u>       |
| <br>  |            |    |                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exempt from fee  |            |    |                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Exemption (attach)  |            |    |                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)  |            |    |                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)                   |            |    |                   |
| <br>  |            |    |                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only) | \$850.00   | \$ | <u>0.00</u>       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee   |            | \$ | <u>50.00</u>      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |            | \$ | <u>          </u> |

**PAYMENT METHOD:**

- Cash   
  Credit   
  Check   
  Other

**TOTAL RECEIVED**    \$    50.00

SIGNATURE <b>X</b> 	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE <b>M. CEDENO, KERN COUNTY CLERK, FSS</b>
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