



**SANTA CLARA COUNTY CLERK
CEQA FILING COVER SHEET**

THIS SPACE FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY

Complete and attach this form to each CEQA Notice filed with the County Clerk

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Check Document being Filed:

Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Filing Fee (new project)

Previously Paid F&W (**must attach F&W receipt and project titles must match**)

No Effect Determination (**F&W letter must be attached**)

Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or Negative Declaration (ND)

Filing Fee (new project)

Previously Paid F&W (**must attach F&W receipt and project titles must match**)

No Effect Determination (**F&W letter must be attached**)

Notice of Exemption (NOE)

Other (Please fill in type):

1. LEAD AGENCY: _____

2. LEAD AGENCY EMAIL: _____

3. PROJECT TITLE: _____

4. APPLICANT NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

5. APPLICANT EMAIL: _____

6. APPLICANT ADDRESS: _____

7. PROJECT APPLICANT IS A: Local Public Agency School District Other Special District State Agency Private Entity

8. NOTICE TO BE POSTED FOR _____ DAYS.

Filing fees are due at the time a Notice of Determination/Exemption is filed with our office. For more information on filing fees and No Effect Determinations, please refer to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 753.5.



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE: Bird-friendly Design Ordinance

PROJECT LOCATION: Palo Alto, California

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Bird-friendly Design Ordinance

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: City of Palo Alto

NAME OF PERSON OR GROUP CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: City of Palo Alto

EXEMPTION 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: CEQA Guidelines §15308 (Protection of Environment)
- Statutory Exemption

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: See Attachment A

PROJECT CONTACT: Kelly Cha, Senior Planner, Planning and Development Services
Kelly.Cha@PaloAlto.gov; (650) 329-2155

IF FILED BY APPLICANT:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding. Yes
- 2. Declare if a Notice of Exemption has been filed by the public agency approving the project. N/A

Kelly Cha Senior Planner 4/7/2026
Signature (Public Agency) Title Date

ATTACHMENT A:**Documentation of Project's Eligibility for Class 8 Exemptions Under CEQA**

The City has determined that the Lighting Ordinance Update (Project) is categorically exempt from CEQA under the Class 8 (Protection of the Environment) Exemption. CEQA Guidelines §15308 reads: "Class 8 consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. Construction activities and relaxation of standards allowing environmental degradation are not included in this exemption."

The information herein documents the project's compliance with the exemption in addition to confirming that no exceptions to the exemption, as outlined in CEQA Guidelines §15300.2, apply to the project.

Eligibility for Exemption

The Project is eligible for Class 8 (Section 15308) exemption because it consists of a regulatory action by the City to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, and protection of the environment. Specifically, the Project introduces a new set of requirements regulating glazing on buildings or structures to protect avian population from collisions.

The Project establishes bird-friendly glazing requirements to balance responsible development with environmental protection by reducing bird collisions. It imposes a certain percentage of bird-friendly treatment on each building elevation, which vary depending on whether a building is residential or nonresidential, and whether it is located within the established Bird Sensitive Area. It also offers an alternative approach for development seeking to meet the intent of the ordinance through methods other than those specifically prescribed. By requiring bird-friendly treatments on buildings, it reduces glare on glazing, which will result in less frequent bird collisions into buildings or structures, thereby reducing bird mortality within built environment.

In addition, the Project does not relax any standard that would allow for environmental degradation. As this is a policy update via ordinance, the Project does not authorize ground-disturbing activity or physical construction projects.

Exceptions to the Exemptions

The City is aware that there are six categories or exceptions that preclude the use of Categorical Exemptions, as listed in CEQA Guidelines 15300.2 These categories, followed by the reason(s) the City believes they are not applicable to this project, are as follows:

- *15300.2(a) Location. Classes 3,4,5,6 and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located—a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant.*

This is not applicable as the Project is exempt under Class 8.

- *15300.2(b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.*

The Project is a regulatory action designed to protect avian population by reducing glare on buildings and use of large pane glazing. Because these impacts are environmentally beneficial, successive implementation will not result in significant adverse environmental impacts.

- *15300.2(c) Significant Effect. There are no unusual circumstances creating the possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment pursuant to CEQA.*

There are no unusual circumstances surrounding the Project that would create the reasonable possibility of a significant effect on the environment. As the Project's primary intent is to reduce glare to protect avian populations, there is no substantial evidence of adverse environmental impacts.

- *15300.2(d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, with a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.*

The Project regulates glazing on buildings and structures and does not authorize any physical alterations to scenic resources within state scenic highway corridors. Therefore, it will not damage scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings within a state scenic highway corridor.

- *15300.2(e) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.*

The Project is a citywide ordinance and is not a site-specific development on a hazardous waste site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (Cortese List). Furthermore, the Project does not authorize ground-disturbing activities, such as excavation or grading, that could disturb hazardous materials or expose the public to health hazards.

- *15300.2(f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.*

The Project does not propose the demolition or material alteration of any historical resource. Compliance with the ordinance does not require physical changes that would materially impair the significance of a historical resource or cause a substantial adverse change in its significance.