

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: Orange

601 N. Ross Street

Santa Ana, CA 92701

From: (Public Agency): City of Mission Viejo

200 Civic Center

Mission Viejo, CA 92691

(Address)

Project Title: P-GPA2026-0003 - Amendment to the Safety Element of the City of Mission Viejo General Plan

Project Applicant: City of Mission Viejo

Project Location - Specific:

City-wide project - Amendment to the Safety Element of the General Plan

Project Location - City: Mission Viejo Project Location - County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Amendment to the Safety Element of the City of Mission Viejo General Plan, as required pursuant to Government Code Section 65302(g).

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Mission Viejo

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Mission Viejo

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: Section 15060, subd. (c)(2) and Section 15061, subd. (b)(3)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed Safety Element Update has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code Section 21000), the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000), and the environmental regulations of the City. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, staff reviewed the previously adopted Safety Element's associated environmental documents and determined that a subsequent EIR or a Negative Declaration is not required for the Safety Element Update, in that substantial changes are not proposed to the draft document, the circumstances to which the 2009 Public Safety Element was adopted have not changed, and no new information of substantial importance or new impacts have arisen since the prior environmental documents have been certified. Although new goals, policies, and implementation programs are proposed with the Safety Element Update, they do not contribute to having a significant effect upon the environment as they are directed at the avoidance of impacts through recognition and control over specific conditions that may arise with a development project, request further study and analysis of specific topics, and promote educational outreach efforts. Additionally, the proposed Safety Element Update has been determined to be an exempted project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15061(b)(3), in that the proposed amendments, which are primarily limited to policy modifications and updates in compliance with Government Code Section 65302(g)(1 through 9), are not anticipated to result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, nor will the proposed changes have the potential for causing significant effect on the environment. The proposed Safety Element Update is in compliance with current state general plan requirements, will not substantially affect, potentially substantially affect, or change the City's land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic resources, and will act to protect the environment by minimizing the potential spread of wildfire and other natural disasters, as well as reducing potential short and long-term community risks from fires, floods, droughts, earthquakes, landslides, climate change, and other related hazards. Furthermore, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308, a project is exempt from CEQA if it is an action 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.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Cliff Jones, Planning & Economic Development Manager Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 949-470-3024

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: *Cliff Jones* Date: 5.13.2026 Title: Planning & Economic Development Manager

▪ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.