

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): City of East Palo Alto
1960 Tate Street
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

County Clerk
County of: San Mateo (Address)
555 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

Project Title: Safety and Noise Element and Infrastructure, Services, and Facilities Element Update

Project Applicant: City of East Palo Alto

Project Location - Specific:

Citywide

Project Location - City: East Palo Alto Project Location - County: San Mateo County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed project provides a policy framework for addressing emergency preparedness and response, seismic and geologic hazards, flooding, dam failure, sea level rise, emergent groundwater, fire hazards, severe weather and drought, transportation hazards, and human health hazards related to air quality. The proposed project also includes goals and policies addressing stormwater drainage, water supply, telecommunications, and solid waste, and climate change adaptation. An Existing Conditions Background Report, which discusses the natural and human-caused hazards that can affect the city, and a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, which includes an analysis of how climate-related hazards may harm the community, have been prepared, and will be included as appendices to the General Plan. The focus of the updates to the Safety Element is to address safety-related topics. There are updates to the Infrastructure, Services, and Facilities Element because it contains some topics that are relevant to safety issues (e.g., stormwater systems, water supply, and emergency infrastructure resilience). Updates to the Safety Element and these other focused updates were made so that all safety-related topics are up to date and consistent with State law, per California Government Code Sections 65302(g) and 65302.15.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of East Palo Alto

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of East Palo Alto

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 15061(b)(3) - Common Sense Exemption
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project establishes a framework for how to achieve its goals through policies and actions to improve public health and safety by complying with new State laws. The proposed project does not include land use or zoning changes that would result in direct or indirect growth or changes in building density and intensity. No provisions implemented under the proposed project would result in direct or indirect population growth and thus would not place additional demands on natural resources, public services, or infrastructure. In addition, the proposed project does not include any site-specific designs or proposals to develop specific projects, nor does it grant any entitlements for development projects. Although the proposed project contains policies that direct the City to explore amending land use or zoning regulations that would improve public safety and community resilience, the proposed project itself does not include these amendments. Until the details and scope of any such amendments are known, it is too speculative and premature to evaluate environmental impacts. Subsequent amendments to the City's land use or zoning regulations would be subject to a separate CEQA review at the time the amendments are prepared, if required. Therefore, the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and is exempt from CEQA review.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Alvin Jen Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 650-853-3189

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: Alvin Jen Date: 6/4/26 Title: Associate 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: _____