

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 Aliso Viejo
12 Journey, Suite 100
Aliso Viejo CA 92688

(Address)

Project Title: ZA-2026-02004:Objective Design Standards (ODS)

Project Applicant: City of Aliso Viejo

Project Location - Specific:

Aliso Viejo, CA

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

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed Zoning Code Amendment to Section 15.62 of the Aliso Viejo Municipal Code establishes objective design standards to provide clear, measurable requirements for new residential developments with 20% or more of base units affordable to low-income households on Housing Element Sites and SB35 qualifying projects with 10% or more of base units affordable to low-income households.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Aliso Viejo, 12 Journey, Ste. 100, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Community Development Department

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

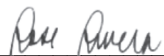
The proposed ordinance is exempt from CEQA under Section 15061(b)(3) because it will not have a significant environmental impact. This "common sense" exemption applies when it is clear that an activity cannot meaningfully affect the environment. ZA-2026-01004 only creates objective design standards for residential projects, as required by State law, and does not allow construction or development on its own. Individual projects will still be reviewed under CEQA if they require discretionary approval. Projects approved ministerially under SB 35 are exempt from CEQA under Government Code Section 21080(b)(1).

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Rose Rivera Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (949) 425-2528

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: 6/5/26 Title: Senior Planner

X 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: _____