

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
County Clerk
County of: San Mateo
555 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

From: (Public Agency): Town of Atherton
80 Fair Oaks Lane
Atherton, California 94027
(Address)

Project Title: Community Safety Element, Open Space and Conservation Element, and Circulation Element Update

Project Applicant: Town of Atherton

Project Location - Specific:

Townwide

Project Location - City: Atherton **Project Location - County:** San Mateo County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed project provides a policy framework for addressing provision of emergency services and emergency preparedness, seismic and soil-related hazards, flooding, dam failure, fire hazards, drought, extreme heat, and human health hazards related to climate change. An Existing Conditions Background Report, which discusses the natural and human-caused hazards that can affect the town, 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 Community Safety Element is to address safety-related topics. There are limited updates to the other elements where they contain topics that are relevant to safety issues (e.g., stormwater infrastructure, open space protection, and evacuation routes). Updates to the Community Safety Element and the 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: Town of Atherton

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Town of Atherton

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 Town 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 Town'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: Brittany Bendix **Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** 650-752-0544

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:** 6/10/20 **Title:** Town 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: _____