

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

TO: X Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: City of Hercules
Community Development Department
111 Civic Drive
Hercules, CA 94547

X County Clerk
County of Contra Costa
55 Escobar Street
Martinez, CA 94553

SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF DETERMINATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 21152 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE

Project Title: Safety Element Update

Project Applicant: City of Hercules

State Clearinghouse Number: 2021030612

Contact Person: Robert Reber, AICP, Community Development Director

Area Code/Number/Extension: (510) 799-8251

Project Location: The City of Hercules is located within the West County portion of Contra Costa County, which includes the urbanized shoreline of San Pablo Bay. The City is separated from the remainder of Contra Costa County by the Briones Hills and open space lands. The incorporated City of Pinole is located south of Hercules and the unincorporated community of Rodeo is located north of Hercules. The geographic scope of the update to the City's Safety Element is citywide.

Project Description: The project consists of an update to the City of Hercules General Plan Safety Element (Safety Element Update), which is the primary document for linking land use (Land Use Element 1998) and conservation decisions (Open Space and Conservation Element 1998) to local safety planning. The goal of the Safety Element Update is to reduce the potential short- and long-term unreasonable risk of death, injuries, property damage, and economic impacts resulting from the effects of natural and non-natural hazards.

The Safety Element was previously adopted in 1998 and is being updated to reflect the land use and regulatory changes that have taken place over the last 20 years and in response to the ongoing evolution in technology. Several revisions have been made, including, but not limited to: 1) updating the data, information, and references with more current sources; 2) incorporating additional language to comply with new and/or amended California State Laws; and 3) revising goals, policies, and implementation actions where progress has been made, where changes in situations have occurred, or to be responsive to community concerns.

As one of the nine State-mandated elements of the General Plan, the Safety Element Update addresses public safety through an analysis of existing hazard conditions that have the potential to cause loss of life, injury, property damage, economic loss, and social dislocation. For the City, these conditions and hazards include seismic and other geologic hazards, sea-level rise and flooding, urban and wildland fires, and hazardous materials, which are addressed in the Safety Element Update. (Hazardous materials are also addressed in the Hazardous Waste Management Plan Element 1990.) In addition to these natural hazards, the community has expressed concerns regarding oil and gas spills, power outages, active shooter situations, hazardous materials, and epidemics, all of which are addressed in the Safety Element Update.

The Safety Element Update contains the minimum content legally mandated by Government Code Section 65302(g), as well as additional issues per discretion of the City. The Safety Element Update includes: general hazard, risk reduction, and avoidance strategies; climate

change vulnerability and measures to address those vulnerabilities; emergency response priorities; and comprehensive hazard mitigation to minimize disruption and expedite recovery following disasters. The Safety Element Update includes five goals and several policies and associated implementation actions that would contribute to meeting these goals. Policies include: implementing safety policies, seismic risk reduction measures, emergency preparedness and public education, fire service and mitigation, stormwater infrastructure, sea level rise impact reduction, and hazards such as active shooter scenarios, infectious disease preparedness, and hazardous materials by rail.

The Safety Element Update establishes goals, policies, and implementation actions to address the objectives of the City as they relate to safety and hazards. The Safety Element Update is linked—by attachment—to the City of Hercules Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), which was prepared in conjunction with the Safety Element Update.

The environmental analysis provided in the Initial Study/Negative Declaration indicates that the proposed project would not have a significant adverse effect on the environment.

This is to advise that the City of Hercules City Council approved the above-described project on May 25, 2021, after making the following environmental determinations regarding such project through the adoption of an Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND):

1. There is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant impact on the environment based on the whole record before it that includes the Initial Study and Negative Declaration, and comments received to date during the public review period and at the public hearing.
2. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Initial Study, Negative Declaration, and record of project approval are available to the General Public at: the City Clerk's Office, City of Hercules, 111 Civic Drive, Hercules California 94547.



Signature (Public Agency)

Community Development Director

Title

Date: May 26, 2021

Submitted to County Clerk for Posting: May 26, 2021
Posting Period: 30 day posting period