



City of Whittier

Community Development Department

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO:

- Office of Planning and Research (OPR)
(Filed electronically - CEQASubmit)
- County Clerk - County of Los Angeles
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
12400 Imperial Highway, Room 1201
Norwalk, CA 9065

FROM:
Lead Agency: City of Whittier, Community Development
- Planning Division
Address: 13230 Penn Street, Whittier, CA 90602
Contact Person: Luis G. Escobedo,
Assistant Director of Community Development
Phone Number: 562-567-9320

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Exemption in compliance with Section 21152 of the California Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): _____

Project Title: Rescission of Previously Approved Uptown Whittier Specific Plan Amendment (SPA21-0001)

Project Location (include county): The 185-acres Uptown Whittier Specific Plan within the County of Los Angeles is bound by the northern edge of the north side of Hadley Street to the north, Painter Avenue to the east, Penn Street to the south, and Pickering Avenue to the west. It consists of 35 city blocks, each block measuring approximately 300 feet by 600 feet.

Project Description: The project is the rescission of a previously approved Specific Plan Amendment to the Uptown Whittier Specific Plan (SPA21-0001), and a return of development standards that were thereby eliminated by the rescission, to those previously existing before the implementation of SPA21-0001.

The previously-approved project was a Specific Plan Amendment to the Uptown Whittier Specific Plan affecting the entire 185-acres with additional modifications to all of the Uptown Core zone and portions of the Uptown Center zone. Specific Plan Amendment No. SPA21-0001 amended certain definitions contained within the Uptown Whittier Specific Plan, and amended portions of the development and parking standards in the Specific Plan affecting properties within the entire Specific Plan, and parcels in the Uptown Core and Uptown Center areas. This project rescinds the referenced Specific Plan amendments that were previously approved by the City, and returns the development and parking standards of the Specific Plan to those previously existing, specifically relating to standards such as parking ratio, allowance of tandem and uncovered parking, the size of parking spaces, the depth location of parking lots, increased allowable height of towers/penthouses, modification of building types, and allowance of ground floor residential.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Whittier

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Luis G. Escobedo, Assistant Director of Community Development, City of Whittier.

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Categorical Exemption (Sec. 15061(b)(3))
- Statutory Exemption ()
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269 (b)(c))
- Other: _____

ORIGINAL FILED

AUG 25 2023

LOS ANGELES, COUNTY CLERK

Reasons why project is exempt: The proposed project was reviewed for potential exemptions and was found to be categorically exempt from CEQA under the common sense exemption, in that it can be seen with certainty that the proposed action will not have any effect or any substantial effect on the environment. The rescission returns the development standards of the Uptown Core and Uptown Center of the Uptown Whittier Specific Plan ("UWSP") areas to the standards that were previously existed prior to the adoption of Specific Plan Amendment SPA21-0001. The changes proposed to the UWSP relate only to those limited items that were originally modified by SPA21-0001. No new changes to the development standards in these areas have been made. The rescission modifies certain parking requirements, including increased tower/penthouse heights; modified building types; and allowed ground-floor residential. The rescission and changes only return these standards to those previously existing. The return of the development standards to those previously existing will not have an environmental impact or any significant environmental impact. Further, the return to prior standards continues to be consistent with the goals and policies of the UWSP and the General Plan. Return of the development standards to pre-existing ones will still allow and encourage development in the Uptown area, including the development of multi-family residential projects or other housing opportunities. Such projects will not be impeded by the rescission of SPA21-0001, and the return to previously existing standards continues to allow quality projects in the Uptown Core and Uptown Center areas of the UWSP. Thus, the project is exempt from CEQA as having no environmental impact.

This is to advise that the City of Whittier – City Council, as the lead agency, approved a rescission of SPA21-0001 on August 22, 2023, and approved Resolution No. 2023-62 to return the previously-implemented modifications of certain development standards of the UWSP to those that were previously existing, prior to adoption of SPA21-0001. The City Council also found that this project is exempt from CEQA environmental review under Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 15061(b)(3).

 Luis G. Escobedo, AICP
 City Contact Person

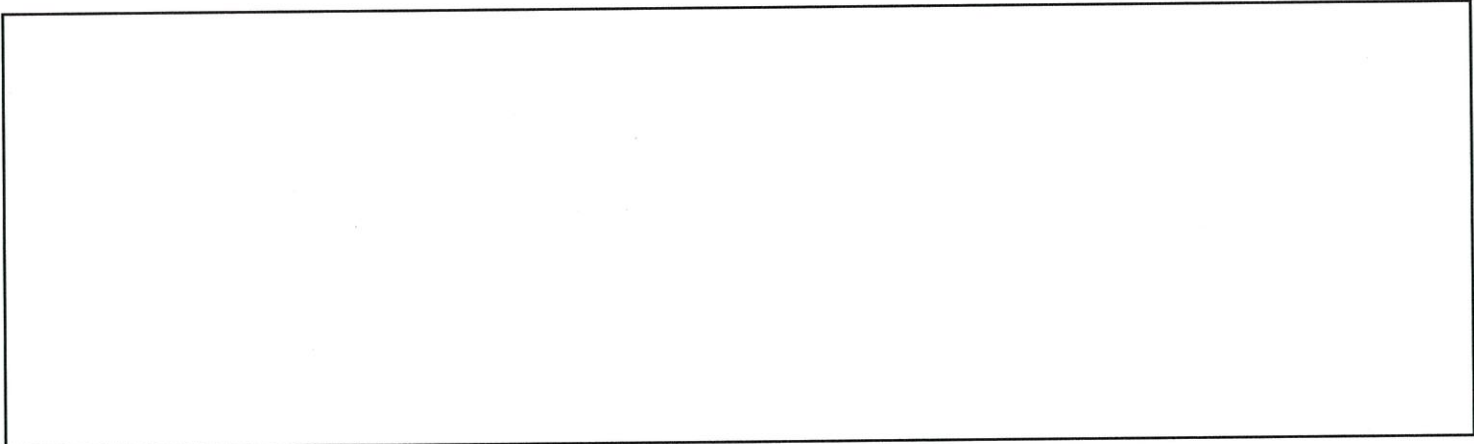
 (562) 567-9320
 Phone Number

 Assistant Director of Community Development

Title


 Signature


 Date



FOR COUNTY CLERK'S USE ONLY

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