

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Email: state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

FROM: City of Watsonville
Community Development Dept.
250 Main Street
Watsonville, CA 95076

Clerk of the Board
Santa Cruz County
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

FILE NO.: None

Project Title: Ballot Measure Pertaining to the City of Watsonville’s Urban Limit Line (“City Measure”)

Project Location - Specific: Citywide

Project Location - City: Watsonville

Project Location - County: Santa Cruz

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: In response to a citizen initiative placed on the November 8, 2022, ballot, the City Council decided to call for an election and place an alternative measure on the November 8, 2022, ballot that would amend the 2005 General Plan to extend the expiration date of the City’s existing Urban Limit Line (ULL) until 2040, but allow the City Council to amend the location of the ULL in the future to allow development that is consistent with certain findings if it chooses to do so as part of the next General Plan update process and only after first subjecting any such change in the ULL to community input and environmental review under CEQA (Resolution 143-22).

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Watsonville

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Watsonville, 250 Main Street, Watsonville, CA 95076

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: _____
 - Statutory Exemptions. State code number: PRC § 21065, 14 Cal.Code Regs § 15378(a); 14 Cal.Code Regs §15061(b)(3)
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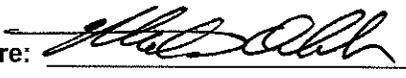
Reasons why project is exempt: The City Measure is not a “project” under CEQA (PRC § 21065 and CEQA Guidelines § 15378(a)) as the City Measure is not a “project” that may cause a direct, or reasonably foreseeable indirect, physical change in the environment. In addition, even if the City Measure were considered to be a “project”, it would be exempt under the “common sense” exception (CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3)) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this action may have a significant effect on the environment. The City measure does not propose or permit any new development, nor does it increase or change in any way the land use, density, or development regulations applicable to any property. If approved by the voters, the City Measure will only extend the expiration date of current limitations on growth already in place as part of the existing Urban Limit Line. Any additional action by the City that may be taken pursuant to the authority the City Measure affords the City Council regarding the potential to amend the location of the Urban Limit Line is speculative and uncertain and will require subsequent discretionary actions that would be analyzed in compliance with CEQA before the City takes any such additional action and approves any related project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matt Orbach

Telephone: 831-768-3075

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: 07/08/22

Title: Principal 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: _____