

Doc No.49-02062024-025

RETURN TO:

City of Petaluma
Community Development Department
11 English St.
Petaluma, CA 94953



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Sonoma County Clerk
585 Fiscal Drive, Room 103
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Project Title: Introduction of an Ordinance to Amend Implementing Zoning Ordinance to Add Chapter 7.120 Objective Design Standards

Project Applicant: City of Petaluma Planning Division, 11 English Street, Petaluma, CA 94953; (707) 778-4556

Project Location: Citywide - Petaluma, Sonoma County, CA.

Project Description: The purpose of the Project is to supplement the existing objective standards within the City's regulating documents including the Municipal Code, SMART Code, and Implementing Zoning Ordinance with objective standards that guide development within the requirements of State Law. The intent of adopting achievable, feasible, and implementable objective design standards is to ensure that qualifying residential development projects: 1) achieve satisfactory quality design in individual buildings and their sites, 2) are designed appropriately for the intended uses, and 3) are in harmony with other developments and their surroundings. The ordinance will amend the Implementing Zoning Ordinance to include standards that regulate site and building design for qualifying residential projects.

EXEMPT STATUS:

Statutory Exemptions

{**Article 18: Section 21080; 15260**}

Ministerial {Sec.15268}

Feasibility/Planning Study {Sec.15262}

Emergency Project {Sec.15269}

Categorical Exemptions

{**Article 19: Section 21084; 15300**}

Protection of the Environment {Sec.15308}

Common Sense {Sec.15061(b)(3)}

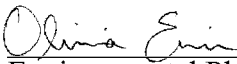
Small Structures {Sec.15303}

Reasons why project is exempt: The Objective Design Standards Ordinance is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines (Common Sense Exemption) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. The project is also categorically exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment) as it involves adoption of Objective Design Standards that (1) increase bicycle connectivity, access, and parking, thereby reducing reliance on automobiles and associated vehicle emission; (2) preserve and enhance the existing aesthetic qualities of Petaluma through inclusion of standards related to fencing, screening, lighting, façade and entryway design, and building corner treatments; (3) prohibit planting of invasive species and artificial turf and reduce the use of landscaping chemicals in affordable housing developments; and (4) include a provision for inclusion of usable open space, thereby ensuring new qualifying residential developments include sufficient recreational areas. City Council approved the project on February 5, 2024.

Lead Agency: City of Petaluma, 11 English Street, Petaluma, CA 94953

Department/Contact Person: Andrew Trippel, Project Manager

Phone (707) 778-4556


Environmental Planner, Planning Division

February 6, 2024
Date