

# **CEQA Notice of Exemption**

# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Recorder/County Clerk  
Attn: James Scott  
1600 Pacific Highway, M.S. A33  
San Diego, CA 92101

FROM: County of San Diego  
Planning & Development Services, M.S. O650  
Attn: Project Planning Division Section Secretary

**SUBJECT: FILING OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21108 OR 21152**

Project Name: An Ordinance Repealing and Reenacting the County Building, Residential, Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical, Energy Efficiency, Green Building Codes, and an Ordinance Amending the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, and Related CEQA Exemption (Triennial County Building Code Updates)

Project Location: The unincorporated area of the County of San Diego

Project Applicant: County of San Diego, Planning & Development Services  
Address: 5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 110, San Diego, CA 92123  
Telephone Number: 858-694-2960

Project Description: Triennial County Building Code Update: An Ordinance Repealing and Reenacting the County Building, Residential, Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical, Green and Energy Codes as a part of the State mandated triennial adoptions of State Model Code updates. The recommended changes include all previous County's Local Amendments. This update also includes the introduction and adoption by ordinance of minor edits to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances (FDMP) to implement Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) recommendations related to engineering review and freeboard requirements, and adopts appendices I and H of the California Building Standards Code.

Agency Approving Project: County of San Diego

County Contact Person: Dennis Howe Telephone Number: 858-694-3039

Date Form Completed: November 29, 2025

This is to advise that the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors (County decision-making body) has approved the above described project on March 4, 2026/ Item 1 (date/item #) and found the project to be exempt from the CEQA under the following criteria:

- Exempt status and applicable section of the CEQA ("C") and/or State CEQA Guidelines ("G"): (check only one)
  - Declared Emergency [C 21080(b)(3); G 15269(a)]
  - Emergency Project [C 21080(b)(4); G 15269(b)(c)]
  - Statutory Exemption. C Section: 15273 Rates, Tolls, Fares and Charges
  - Categorical Exemption. G Section:
    - G 15061(b)(3) - It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment and the activity is not subject to the CEQA.
    - G 15182 – Residential Projects Pursuant to a Specific Plan
    - G 15183 – Projects Consistent with a Community Plan, General Plan, or Zoning
    - Activity is exempt from the CEQA because it is not a project as defined in Section 15378(b)(5).
- Mitigation measures  were  were not made a condition of the approval of the project.
- A Mitigation reporting or monitoring plan  was  was not adopted for this project.

Statement of reasons why project is exempt:

The project entails the State-mandated triennial repealing and reenacting County Building Codes, along with the adoption of Local Amendments to the California Building Standards Code that are determined to be reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions. California Health and Safety Code Section 18941.5 allows the County to amend the California Building Standards Code if the provisions established by such Local Amendments meet or exceed the state standards.

The majority of the County's Local Amendments to state building standards in the proposed ordinance are identical to, or minor clarifications of, Local Amendments in past ordinances previously approved by the Board. The proposed ordinance contains administrative provisions enabling the County to carry out the Board's direction, intent, and purpose regarding construction codes. The proposed ordinances includes introduction and adoption of minor edits to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances (FDMP) to implement Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) recommendations related to engineering review and freeboard requirements.

The proposed ordinance includes all prior additions, deletions, and modifications to state standards that have been determined to be reasonably necessary because of the County's climatic, geological, and topographical conditions. California Health and Safety Code Section 18941.5 allows the County to amend the California Building Standards Code if the provisions established by such Local Amendments meet or exceed the state standards. Additionally, this code update request includes the option to update the Green Building Incentive Program to provide permitting incentives for projects that volunteer to go beyond State code requirements under water, recycle content, and energy conservation to support implementation of the 2024 Climate Action Plan goals

The project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this project may have a significant effect on the environment, because the proposed adoption and amendments do not result in any physical changes to the environment. As described above, the measures add requirements for buildings above what is required by the state code.

Therefore, the commonsense exemption (Section 15061(b)(3)) applies as there is no possibility for the adoption of these measures to result in physical impacts on the environment.

This exemption is to be filled in only upon formal project approval by the appropriate County of San Diego decision-making body.

Signature:  Telephone: (858) 694-3075

Name (Print): Dennis Howe Title: Building Chief, PDS

This Notice of Exemption has been signed and filed by the County of San Diego.

This notice must be filed with the Recorder/County Clerk as soon as possible after project approval by the decision-making body. The Recorder/County Clerk must post this notice within 24 hours of receipt and for a period of not less than 30 days. At the termination of the posting period, the Recorder/County Clerk must return this notice to the Department address listed above along with evidence of the posting period. The originating Department must then retain the returned notice for a period of not less than twelve months. Reference: CEQA Guidelines Section 15062.