

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

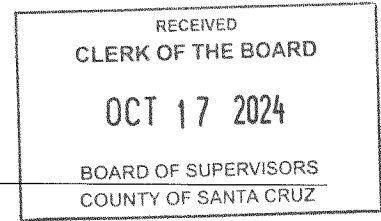
44-10172024-262

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 ²⁴³⁻²⁴
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.: N/A



Project Title: City of Watsonville 2023-2031 Housing Element

Project Location - Specific: Citywide

Project Location - City: Watsonville

Project Location - County: Santa Cruz

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Project is the City of Watsonville 2023 - 2031 Housing Element, which represents the City's policy program for the 2023-2031 6th Cycle Planning Period. The Project involves the adoption of the Housing Element Update, amending the General Plan to update the Housing Element for the current cycle, and certification of the CEQA document (i.e., Notice of Exemption).

Pursuant to State law, the City is required to update its Housing Element every eight years. In each eight-year planning cycle, the City is allocated a specific number of housing units (i.e., Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)). The RHNA quantifies current and future housing growth within a city. The Housing Element establishes the City's official housing policies and programs to accommodate the City's RHNA goals and identifies available candidate housing sites (69 total) to meet those goals. The Project would not implement or result in direct housing construction but would facilitate and provide a policy framework for future housing development throughout the City. The Project's beneficiary is the City of Watsonville.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Watsonville
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Watsonville

THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICE FOR A PERIOD COMMENCING 10/17/2024 AND ENDING 11/23/2024

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: Public Resources Code §21083
State CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3) Common Sense Exemption, §15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies, and §15283 Housing Needs Allocation

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project is exempt under the Common Sense Exemption because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed 2023-2031 Housing Element Update would have a significant effect on the environment. The Project is exempt under the Feasibility and Planning Studies Exemption because it is a feasibility or planning study for possible future actions by the City. The Project is exempt under the Housing Needs Allocation as an action to implement a regional housing needs determination.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Matt Orbach, Principal Planner 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: [Signature] Date: 10/16/24 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: _____