

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	19-BSTD-06
Project Title:	Local Ordinances Exceeding the 2019 Energy Code
TN #:	232162-3
Document Title:	City of Saratoga - 2019 DOC011620
Description:	Plain text of CEQA notice of exemption
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Incorporated October 22, 1956

CITY OF SARATOGA

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COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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January 17, 2020

Notice of Exemption

To: County of Santa Clara
County Clerk-Recorder
70 West Hedding Street, 1st Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

From: City of Saratoga
13777 Fruitvale Avenue
Saratoga, CA 95070

Project Title: Adoption of 2019 California Building, Residential, Electrical, Mechanical, Plumbing, Fire, Energy, and Green Building Standards, and Referenced Standards Codes with Modifications for Local Conditions and Making Certain Other Amendments to Chapter 16 (Building Regulations) of the City Code.

Project Location - City of Saratoga, Santa Clara County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project is an ordinance adopting the California Building Standards Code (“CBSC”) found in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations with certain local modifications found to be reasonably necessary to address local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions. Among the changes Saratoga adopted to the state building code are local modifications to the state energy standards contained in Part 6 of Title 24. Such local changes are referred to as an “energy reach code.” Saratoga’s ordinance contains a reach code requirement that all newly constructed buildings be built as electrically-heated buildings, meaning that they use an electric heat pump(s) for space heating and an electric heat pump water heater(s), and that they do not use natural gas for either space or water heating. Saratoga’s reach code allows for cooking appliances, fireplaces, and clothes drying appliances to utilize natural gas, but the locations of these appliances must be wired for future use of electric appliances. The purpose of Saratoga’s ordinance is to address its local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions. Saratoga’s energy reach code requirements in particular support the City’s sustainability goals, including the City Council’s goals to reduce greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions. By reducing GHG emissions from new buildings, the reach code will accelerate the City’s timeline to achieve its GHG emission reduction targets, thereby addressing the City’s climatic conditions.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Saratoga

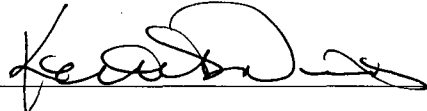
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Saratoga Community Development Department

Reason Why Project is Exempt:

The project is exempt from CEQA under California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15308 because the modifications to the state building codes assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment. Additionally, the project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question will have a significant effect on the environment. In light of these factors, the project is not subject to CEQA.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Keith Weiner, Community Development Department

Telephone: (408) 868-1228

Signature:  Date: 1/17/2020

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