

**DOCKETED**

<b>Docket Number:</b>	22-BSTD-07
<b>Project Title:</b>	Local Ordinance Applications Exceeding the 2022 Energy Code
<b>TN #:</b>	258441
<b>Document Title:</b>	City of East Palo Alto CEQA Notice of Exemption
<b>Description:</b>	Plain text of City of East Palo Alto CEQA notice of exemption
<b>Filer:</b>	Anushka Raut
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
<b>Submission Date:</b>	8/9/2024 4:49:47 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	8/9/2024



# CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO

Community and Economic Development – Building Division

2415 University Avenue  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

Phone: (650) 853- 3189  
Fax: (650) 853-3136

[www.cityofepa.org](http://www.cityofepa.org)  
[building@cityofepa.org](mailto:building@cityofepa.org)

Att. CEQA Notice of Exemption

FILING REQUESTED BY AND WHEN FILED RETURN TO:

**Lead Agency:** Community and Economic Development Department – Building Division

**Contact Person:** Amy Chen, Director, Community and Economic Development, East Palo Alto

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (650) 853- 3193

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

City of East Palo Alto

Environmental Coordination and Review

June 20, 2024

1. **Project Name:** Ordinance Amendments to the City of East Palo Alto, Chapter 15.11 (California Green Building Standards, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 11) and 15.25 (California Energy Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 6) of the East Palo Alto Municipal Code (EPAMC),
2. **Project Location:** City of East Palo Alto
3. **Project Description:**

Pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 25402.1(h)(2) and Section 10-106 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, the Jurisdiction of **City of East Palo Alto** has applied to the

California Energy Commission for a determination that its locally adopted energy efficiency standard, enacted in Local Ordinance **No. 03-2024** (the Ordinance), will require buildings to be designed to consume no more energy than permitted by the *2022 Building Energy Efficiency Standards* (2022 Energy Standards) adopted by the Energy Commission. The Energy Commission's Building Standards are set forth in Title 24, Part 6 of the California Code of Regulations. **Energy Performance Approach: This ordinance requires meeting a source energy margin target through the performance path. To do so, one must install decarbonization measures in mixed fuel buildings or build an all-electric building.** Consistent with PRC Section 25402.1(h)(2), the Energy Commission found that the Jurisdiction of **City of East Palo Alto's** Ordinance will require the diminution of energy consumption levels permitted by the 2022 Energy Standards.

4. **Public Agency Approving Project:** City of East Palo Alto City Council
  
5. **Project Sponsor:** Community and Economic Development Department – Building Division
  
6. **CEQA Exemption Status:**

- 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:
  - California Code of Regulations, Title 14, § 15061(b)(3).
  - California Code of Regulations, Title 14, § 15308.
- Statutory Exemption. State code number:

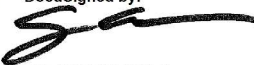
7. **Reasons for Exemption:**

The finding by the Energy Commission required by PRC Section 25402.1(h)(2), that Jurisdiction of **City of East Palo Alto** ordinance will require the diminution of energy consumption levels permitted by the 2022 Energy Standards, involves the comparison of the energy savings of the ordinance pursuant to an objective fixed standard, and does not require the exercise of judgment or deliberation on the part of the Energy Commission. It is therefore a ministerial act consistent with Section 15369 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations and is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080(b)(1) and section 15268 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

The Energy Commission also determined that the activity is covered by the general rule that California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (14 CCR § 15061(b)(3).) Where 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 activity is not subject to CEQA. The Energy Commission previously found that its adoption of the California Green Building Code was exempt from CEQA pursuant to Title 14, Section 15061(b)(3). Additionally, analysis indicates that the 2022 Title 24 Part 6 Energy code amendments are not expected to result in significant environmental impacts.<sup>1</sup>

These standards are more protective of the environment than the state standards, and there are no reasonably foreseeable adverse impacts, and so there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. As the lead agency, the Jurisdiction of **City of East Palo Alto** also stated in its application to the Energy Commission that this activity is exempt from CEQA under Section 15061(b)(3) and 15308 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

Project Planner:

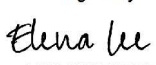
DocuSigned by:  
  
6/20/2024  
FDD176EE9B474DC...  
Amy Chen

Director

Jurisdiction of **East Palo Alto**

Telephone: (650) 853- 3193

Reviewed By:

DocuSigned by:  
  
6/20/2024  
8ADB28E9FC504D0...  
Elena Lee

Planning Manager

Jurisdiction of **East Palo Alto**

Telephone: (650) 853- 3148

CC: John Lê, City Attorney

<sup>1</sup> [CEC 2021 Final Environmental Impact Report - Amendments to the Building Energy](#)