

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	22-BSTD-07
Project Title:	Local Ordinance Applications Exceeding the 2022 Energy Code
TN #:	262139
Document Title:	City of San Mateo Notice of Exemption Filing
Description:	Plain text of City of San Mateo California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) notice of exemption
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Organization:	California Energy Commission
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CITY OF SAN MATEO
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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FILING REQUESTED BY AND WHEN FILED RETURN TO:

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SAN MATEO COUNTY

JAN 29 2025

MARK CHURCH, County Clerk
By **KAMILLE SANTOS**
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

City of San Mateo
Environmental Coordination and Review

January 28, 2025

1. **Project Name:** Ordinance Adopting Green Building Amendments to the City of San Mateo Municipal Code Chapter 23.24 Energy Code

2. **Project Location:** City of San Mateo

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 City of San Mateo has applied to the California Energy Commission for a determination that its locally adopted energy efficiency standard, enacted in Local Ordinance No. 2025-01, 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. The 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 City of San Mateo's Ordinance will require the diminution of energy consumption levels permitted by the 2022 Energy Standards.

4. **Public Agency Approving Project:** San Mateo City Council

5. **Project Sponsor:** City of San Mateo Community Development Department

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 the City of San Mateo ordinance will require the diminution of energy consumption levels permitted by the 2022 Energy Standards, involves the comparison of the energy savings of the ordinances 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.¹

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 City of San Mateo 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:



Zachary Dahl

Director, Community Development

¹ CEC 2021 Final Environmental Impact Report – Amendments to the Building Efficiency Standards (2022 Energy Code): <https://www.energy.ca.gov/publications/2021/environmental-impact-report-amendments-building-efficiency-standards-2022-energy>

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