



City of Santa Ana
20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701
Staff Report
August 1, 2023

TOPIC: Resolution Adopting Local CEQA Guidelines Resolution

AGENDA TITLE

Adoption of 2023 Local Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA")

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt a resolution adopting the 2023 Local Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act for the City of Santa Ana.

DISCUSSION

The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), codified at Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq., is California's most comprehensive environmental law. It generally requires public agencies to evaluate the environmental effects of their actions before they are taken. CEQA also aims to disclose significant environmental effects of projects and prevent significant environmental effects from occurring as a result of agency actions by requiring agencies to avoid or reduce, when feasible, the significant environmental impacts of their decisions.

Local CEQA Guidelines

CEQA requires public agencies to adopt specific objectives, criteria, and procedures for evaluating public and private projects that are undertaken or approved by such agencies. As in prior years, Best, Best and Krieger (BB&K) assisted the City of Santa Ana in preparing a set of Local CEQA Guidelines that are in compliance with CEQA's requirements. The Local Guidelines provide step-by-step procedures for evaluating projects prior to approval including:

- General Provisions & Definitions
- Time Limits
- Initial Study
- Exemptions
- Negative Declarations/Mitigated Negative Declarations

- Environmental Impact Reports
- Forms

The Local CEQA Guidelines will become effective upon adoption. New projects or projects that have not circulated CEQA documents for public review before the effective date must comply with the City's new CEQA Guidelines.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

No environmental impact is anticipated from amending the Local CEQA Guidelines. The City of Santa Ana's adoption of the attached Resolution is not a project under State CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5) because it involves an administrative activity and would not result in any environmental impacts.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

EXHIBIT(S)

1. Resolution adopting the Local CEQA Guidelines

Submitted By: Minh Thai, Executive Director of Planning and Building Agency

Approved By: Kristine Ridge, City Manager