



Agenda Item No: 3.a

PLACENTIA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: July 1, 2025

Submitted by: Joe Lambert

From: Development Services

Subject:

Adoption of Guidelines and Procedures for implementing the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act for projects in the City of Placentia

Financial Impact:

Fiscal Impact:

No Impact

Summary:

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. Under CEQA, Guidelines have been established for the implementation of the act. They can be found in the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15000 et seq.

The City's current Local Guidelines were adopted in 1991 and have not been updated since that time. As such, Staff, in connection with the City Attorney's Office, has prepared a new set of Local CEQA Guidelines in compliance with State law.

Recommendation:

Recommended Action: It is recommended that the City Council take the following action:

1. Adopt Resolution No. R-2025-36, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Placentia, California, finding that adoption of CEQA Guidelines 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; and, adopting Guidelines and Procedures for implementing the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code § 21000 et seq.) for projects in the City of Placentia.

Strategic Plan Statement:

This Council action is generally related to Goal 3 to promote Community and Economic Development. Adopting updated CEQA Guidelines with local objectives, criteria, and procedures for evaluating public and private projects brings the City in compliance with State

law in this regard and directly results in providing a high level of local review and certainty to ensure development projects are evaluated in a way that is consistent with the goals and policies of the City Council. Also, specifically, this action is consistent with and furthers Objective 3.10: Implementation of Housing Element Strategies and Objective 3.12: Secure funding to address affordable housing, in that local CEQA Guidelines provide clarity to developers regarding CEQA review related to development projects resulting in surety and expedited review for potential development including housing.

Discussion:

Pursuant to Public Resources Section 21082 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15022, public agencies are required to adopt specific objectives, criteria, and procedures for evaluating public and private projects that are undertaken or approved by such agencies. The City's current Local Guidelines were adopted in 1991 and have not been updated since that time. As such, Staff, in connection with the City Attorney's Office, has prepared a new set of local CEQA Guidelines in compliance with State law. The new Local Guidelines are more streamlined and provide step-by-step procedures for evaluating and processing projects including:

- Approving Authority
- Time Limits
- Initial Study
- Exemptions
- Negative Declarations/Mitigated Negative Declarations (ND/MND)
- Environmental Impact Reports (EIR)
- Appeals

On June 10, 2025, the City of Placentia Planning Commission adopted Resolution No. PC-2025-07 recommending that City Council find that adoption of CEQA Guidelines 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; and, recommending that City Council adopt Guidelines and Procedures for implementing the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act for projects in the City of Placentia.

CEQA:

No environmental impact is anticipated from amending the Local CEQA Guidelines. The City of Placentia adopting local CEQA Guidelines 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. On June 10, 2025, the Planning Commission recommended that City Council find that adoption of CEQA Guidelines 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.

CONCLUSION:

The new Local CEQA Guidelines are developed in compliance with the State CEQA Guidelines and implement procedures not only as provided for under CEQA and the Guidelines, but that are specific to the City.

Fiscal Impact Summary:

No immediate impact.

Attachments

[1._Resolution_R-2025-36.docx](#)

[1.a.CEQA Guidelines Final with Appendix.docx](#)