

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-XX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS ADOPTING A GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT FOR A NEW SAFETY ELEMENT AND REVISED NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & HAZARDS ELEMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Los Altos has undertaken a General Plan Amendment to ensure consistency with state law and to provide a clear, actionable framework for enhancing public safety and hazard mitigation in Los Altos; and

WHEREAS, the Safety-related sections previously contained within the Natural Environment & Hazards Element have been removed and updated through the adoption of a new, standalone Safety Element, in accordance with California Government Code Section 65302(g); and

WHEREAS, the revised Natural Environment and Hazards Element now includes only the Noise and Air Quality sections. The format, language, and content of these sections remain unchanged, aside from the removal of safety-related content, which is now addressed in a standalone Safety Element; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the revised Natural Environment & Hazards Element is in the public interest and aligns with the goals and policies of the City's General Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Altos last updated its Safety Element in 2002, and subsequent State legislation—including SB 379, SB 99, AB 747, SB 1241, SB 1035, and AB 2140—necessitated an update to address new requirements for climate adaptation, wildfire risk reduction, evacuation planning, and hazard mitigation plan integration; and

WHEREAS, the Safety Element has been prepared in accordance with Government Code Section 65302(g), ensuring coverage of hazards such as seismic activity, flooding, wildfire, hazardous materials, climate change, and emergency preparedness; and

WHEREAS, the Safety Element incorporates the City's adopted Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) and references the Santa Clara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP), formally adopted by the City on August 27, 2024 (Resolution No. 2024-68); and

WHEREAS, although Los Altos is not located within a Cal Fire–designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) and therefore not subject to consultation with the Board of Forestry or Cal OES, the City consulted with the Santa Clara County Fire Department to ensure the Safety Element aligns with regional wildfire and emergency response protocols; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Altos conducted public engagement to inform the Safety Element Update, including the establishment of a Safety Element webpage on the City's website; the publication of public notices in the Palo Alto Daily Post; distribution of informational flyers at

City Hall, the Library, the Community Center, the Senior Center, and the Grant Park Community Center; hosting two public workshops; conducting an online community survey; releasing the public review draft for community comment; and ongoing consultation with public safety stakeholders such as the Santa Clara County Fire Department and Los Altos Police Department; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the General Plan Amendment for a new Safety Element and revised Natural Environment & Hazards Element is exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This action qualifies for the commonsense exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15061(b)(3), which applies when it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the activity may have a significant effect on the environment, as the update is a policy document that does not directly authorize development or other physical changes, and any future projects will be subject to separate environmental review as required; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on May 15, 2025, to consider the General Plan Amendment for the Safety Element and the revised Natural Environment & Hazards Element, received public testimony, and made a formal recommendation to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission considered all evidence presented during its review of the Safety Element and the revised Natural Environment & Hazards Element, including: (a) written and graphical materials for the public review draft and staff presentations; (b) public comments from meetings, surveys, and the review period; (c) oral testimony from staff, stakeholders, and the public; (d) the May 15, 2025 staff report and its attachments; and (e) additional information received during the public hearing and deliberations; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a duly noticed public hearing on XXXXX 2025, received public testimony and materials, and carefully considered the Planning Commission's recommendation, staff reports, and community input; and

WHEREAS, the finding and conclusions made by the City Council in the Resolution are based upon the oral and written evidence presented as well as the entirety of the administrative record for the proposed project, which is incorporated herein by this reference. The findings are not based on the information provided in this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Los Altos does hereby approve a General Plan Amendment adopting the Safety Element and revised Natural Environment & Hazards Element.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Altos at a meeting thereof on XXXX day of XXXX 2025 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Pete Dailey, MAYOR

Attest:

Melissa Thurman, MMC, CITY CLERK