

**CITY OF FRESNO CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

THE PROJECT DESCRIBED HEREIN IS DETERMINED TO BE STATUTORILY EXEMPT FROM
THE PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 18 OF THE
STATE CEQA GUIDELINES.

APPLICANT(S): City of Fresno

PROJECT LOCATION: The Elm Avenue Revitalization Strategy is located on a 2.25-mile segment of Elm Avenue Corridor and adjacent neighborhoods in Southwest Fresno, in an area bounded by Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to the west, Highway 41 to the east, California Avenue and Ventura Street to the north, and North Avenue to the south.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Elm Avenue Revitalization Strategy was prepared by the City of Fresno using EPA Brownfields Areawide Planning Grant funds. The Strategy is a roadmap to clean-up and development of key brownfield sites on the Elm Avenue Corridor and provides implementation action resources for the city and stakeholders. The Strategy does not include any land use changes or rezoning, nor does it commit the city to any particular actions set forth in the document.

This project is exempt under Section 15262 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines as follows:

CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 exempts projects involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the agency, board, or commission has not approved, adopted, or funded does not require the preparation of an EIR or negative declaration but does require consideration of environmental factors.

The proposed Strategy qualifies for this exemption because it is a roadmap to development and clean-up of key brownfield sites on the Elm Avenue Corridor and provides implementation action resources for the city and stakeholders. The Strategy does not propose any land use changes or rezoning, it does not commit the city to any particular actions set forth in the document, and it does not include funding for future project approvals. However, it does provide a resource for the City, partner agencies, and private sector applicants, which can be used in planning for the rehabilitation and reuse of Brownfields sites. In addition, it provides a comprehensive summary of potential uses that reflect the vision of the adjacent communities and summarizes the steps that would be needed to implement various components of the community vision. This toolkit allows the City and its partners to determine the feasibility of reuse concepts and is available to guide the preparation of possible future actions for consideration by the City.

Therefore, The Elm Avenue Revitalization Strategy is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15262.

Date: September 16, 2019

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Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sophia Pagoulatos", is written over the printed name and title.

Sophia Pagoulatos
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