



San Miguel Fire & Rescue

Staff Report

Date: June 10, 2020
To: Board of Directors
From: Leah Harris, Administrative Officer/Finance Officer
Subject: Adoption of CEQA Guidelines – Resolution 20-4

Background

The California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.; “CEQA”) 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 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.

Discussion

CEQA requires public agencies to adopt objectives, criteria, and procedures for the evaluation of projects and the preparation of environmental impact reports and negative declarations pursuant to CEQA.

These objectives, criteria, and procedures are set forth in the 2020 Local Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act for the San Miguel Consolidated Fire Protection District (“Local CEQA Guidelines”). These Local CEQA Guidelines include instructions and forms for preparing environmental documents required under CEQA.

The Local CEQA Guidelines reflect recent changes in the State CEQA Guidelines and supersede any other Local CEQA Guidelines previously adopted by the District. The District’s legal counsel has provided a memorandum summarizing the updates to the Local CEQA Guidelines. A copy will be provided to each Director.

Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact is anticipated from the adoption of the Local CEQA Guidelines.

Environmental Impact

No adverse environmental impact is anticipated from the adoption of the Local CEQA Guidelines.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board adopt Resolution 20-4.

Resolution 20-4

**A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the
San Miguel Consolidated Fire Protection District
Amending and Adopting Local Guidelines for
Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act
(Public Resources Code §§ 21000 et seq.)**

WHEREAS, the California Legislature has amended the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) (Pub. Resources Code §§ 21000 et seq.), the Natural Resources Agency has amended portions of the State CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs, tit. 14, §§ 15000 et seq.), and the California courts have interpreted specific provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, Public Resources Code section 21082 requires all public agencies to adopt objectives, criteria and procedures for (1) the evaluation of public and private projects undertaken or approved by such public agencies, and (2) the preparation, if required, of environmental impact reports and negative declarations in connection with that evaluation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors must revise its local guidelines for implementing CEQA to make them consistent with the current provisions and interpretations of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby resolves to adopt the “2020 Local Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act,” a copy of which is on file at the offices of the District and is available for inspection by the public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all prior actions of the District enacting earlier guidelines are hereby repealed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the San Miguel Consolidated Fire Protection District this 10th day of June, 2020 by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

Board Secretary

Kim Raddatz, Board President