

CITY OF ALAMEDA PLANNING BOARD

DRAFT RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDING TO CITY COUNCIL THAT IT ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO THE ALAMEDA MUNICIPAL CODE AT SECTIONS 30-18, TO AMEND PROVISIONS RELATING TO UNIVERSAL RESIDENTIAL DESIGN TO UPDATE OUTDATED SECTIONS RELATING TO UNIVERSAL RESIDENTIAL DESIGN AND PROVIDE CLARIFICATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ORDINANCE; AND FIND THAT THE AMENDMENTS ARE EXEMPT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2017, the City Council adopted a new municipal code section, universal residential design, intended to implement the General Plan Housing Element policies that require that the City “Provide housing that meets the City’s diverse housing needs...”, which included provisions requiring annual reporting and review for recommended changes to the ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board held a duly noticed public hearing on February 24, 2025 to conduct a study session on the proposed amendments regarding universal residential design, and provided feedback to staff on revisions to the draft amendments to be made before a recommendation to City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board held a duly noticed public hearing on April 14, 2025, to consider the revised amendments and CEQA determination, and received testimony related to the proposed amendments regarding universal residential design, and made a recommendation to the City Council to adopt the revised amendments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Planning Board of the City of Alameda, as follows:

- 1. The amendments maintain the integrity of the General Plan.** The proposed amendments are consistent with the City of Alameda’s General Plan, Land Use Element policies which identified the importance of using current best practices to ensure that implementation is successful in meeting the diverse range of needs of Alamedans without undue constraints on housing development, which is facilitated by the proposed zoning text amendments.
- 2. The amendments will support the general welfare of the community.** The proposed amendments provide a better-defined set of regulations for implementation of universal residential design standards and improves clarity in the regulations to maintain consistency with other applicable laws and regulations.
- 3. The amendments are equitable.** The proposed amendments are equitable in that they will apply broadly to the entire community, and clarify the regulations so that the community is able to be informed and participate in the decision-making process.

4. The amendments are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. The proposed amendments are exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), which exempts an action where it can be seen with certainty that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. Amending the zoning code for the purpose of greater clarity and internal consistency will not result in any identifiable physical impacts, and the text amendments relate to legally existing uses and buildings, and a use permit would be required for expansions at which time specific impacts would be considered under separate environmental review.

5. The amendments are hereby recommended to the City Council for adoption, as presented in Exhibit A.

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