



# ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

## UNIVERSAL SCREENING TOOL

### QUESTIONS?

Additional information regarding environmental review can be obtained at the Planning Counter at 630 Garden Street (805) 564-5578, [PlanningCounter@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:PlanningCounter@SantaBarbaraCA.gov)



### WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW?

Environmental review is a key part of the City's process for design review and land use projects. All discretionary decisions are subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA requires lead agencies to disclose and consider the environmental effects of proposed projects, and to identify ways environmental damage can be avoided or reduced.

### WHEN DOES IT OCCUR?

The process begins when a Planning Application is submitted to the City. During application review, City staff will determine if CEQA applies to the project and if additional technical studies are needed. Environmental document preparation and review occurs at the same time and in parallel with all other project review. Within 30 days of determining an application is complete, the assigned planner must determine if the project is exempt from CEQA. Documentation of a CEQA exemption or preparation of an environmental document must be completed prior to project decision.

If the project is not exempt from CEQA, the next step is to prepare an Initial Study. The Initial Study will determine whether a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report will need to be prepared.

### THINKING AHEAD

Technical studies may be required to ensure all environmental issues are adequately addressed. This Environmental Review Checklist is an optional tool for applicants to use that can assist staff in the timely review of your project. Review the information on the following pages and submit this completed checklist, along with any clarifying details, with your Planning Application.



# ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

This form is intended to assist applicants to identify if further environmental review may be required. You do not need to submit any additional materials at this time; once the application is reviewed, your assigned planner will contact you with further instructions. Respond to the best of your knowledge. **Look up relevant parcel information online through the City’s mapping application, [MAPS](#).**

TOPIC	INFORMATION	APPLICABLE	REQUIREMENTS
AIR QUALITY	1. Is the site located within <b>250 feet of Highway 101</b> , and includes a residential, school, or community care facility use?	<b>YES</b> <b>NO</b> <b>?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The site must meet air quality <b>design standards</b> , see SBMC <a href="#">22.65</a> .
	2. Was the site previously developed with, will be adjacent to, or the proposed project includes a use that generates <b>air pollutants or odors</b> (body shop, dry cleaner, manufacturing, etc.)?		An <b>Environmental Site Assessment</b> or <b>Air Quality Report</b> (operations/construction emissions using CalEEMod program) may be required.
	3. Is construction anticipated to last longer than <b>18 months</b> ?	<b>YES</b> <b>NO</b> <b>?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	4. Does the project propose new storage or use of <b>chemicals</b> or petroleum products, exceeding 100 gallons?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	5. Does the project propose any <b>generators</b> ?		
	6. Does the project have the potential to generate <b>odors</b> ?		
ARCHEOLOGY	7. Is the site in an <b>Archaeological Sensitivity Area</b> ?	<b>YES</b> <b>NO</b> <b>?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Indicate on plans the area and depth of disturbance for the project and submit any available information about prior ground disturbance.  An <b>Archaeological Report</b> prepared by a City-qualified archaeologist, or conditions alerting to the possibility of discovery during ground disturbance may be required.
	8. If yes, is the <b>depth of disturbance</b> greater than 12 inches, or the area of disturbance greater than 500 sq. ft.? (Include over-excavation for footings, utility trenches, and City’s Storm Water Management Program)	<b>YES</b> <b>NO</b> <b>?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	9. If yes, has there been <b>prior landform modification</b> to the same depth in the proposed area of disturbance?	<b>YES</b> <b>NO</b> <b>?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	

TOPIC	INFORMATION	APPLICABLE	REQUIREMENTS
BIOLOGY	10. Does the site contain wetlands, <b>important biological resources</b> , or Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA), as indicated on <a href="#">MAPS</a> , California Natural Diversity Database (CNDD), or field site condition?	<p>YES    NO    ?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Clarify on the plans if any trees or native vegetation are proposed to be removed.</p> <p>A <b>Wetland Delineation</b> or <b>Biological Evaluation</b> may be required.</p>
CREEKS	11. Is the site adjacent to any <b>creek</b> , watercourse, or a stream regulated pursuant to the <a href="#">California Fish and Game Code</a> ?	<p>YES    NO    ?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The <b>City Creeks Division</b> may recommend measures to avoid significant impacts to creeks.</p> <p>A <b>Hydrology Report</b> may be required.</p>
	12. Will there be any grade or fill materials, or any structure, conduit, pipe, impervious material, or lining which may obstruct or <b>divert the flow of water</b> of any watercourse?	<p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The site must meet the City's requirements for watercourses and storm drains, see SBMC <a href="#">14.56</a>.</p>
ENERGY	13. Does the project result in a substantial increase in <b>fossil fuel</b> consumption (electricity, oil, natural gas, etc.)?	<p>YES    NO    ?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Review the City's Climate Action Plan. Specific project design measures may be required to reduce carbon emissions or address climate-related hazards.</p>
FLOOD	14. Is the site in a <b>Flood Zone</b> (A, AE, AH, or AO) or designated FEMA <b>Floodway</b> ? See <a href="#">FEMA Flood Map</a> . Properties in D or X zones are excluded from this requirement	<p>YES    NO    ?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Obtain a <b>Base Flood Elevation</b> (BFE) Determination from the Building &amp; Safety Division. See Floodplain Management ordinance, SBMC <a href="#">22.24</a>.</p>
GEOLOGY	15. Is the site located within a delineated <b>earthquake</b> fault zone (MAPS)?	<p>YES    NO    ?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>A <b>Geotechnical (Soils) Report</b> or <b>Fault Location Study</b> may be required.</p> <p>If applicable, the site must meet Conejo Road Landslide requirements, see SBMC <a href="#">22.90</a></p>
	16. Is the site on a <b>septic system</b> ?		
	17. Does the site contain a <b>bluff</b> ?		
	18. Does the site contain a <b>landslide</b> ?		
	19. Does the site contain moderate or high <b>slope stability</b> hazards?		
20. Does the site contain high <b>liquefaction</b> potential, moderate or high <b>expansive soils</b> , or shallow or moderately shallow <b>groundwater</b> ?			

TOPIC	INFORMATION	APPLICABLE	REQUIREMENTS
HAZARDS	21. Is the project located on or adjacent to a <b>hazardous waste site</b> designated by the Department of Toxic Substances Control; or could there be contamination due to known previous uses (gas station, dry cleaner, industrial facility, etc.)? See <a href="#">Cortese List</a>	<p>YES    NO    ?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Describe the source and location of any hazards. An <b>Environmental Site Assessment</b> may be required.</p> <p>Specify the list, date of list, and regulatory identification number.</p> <p>Provide information on the status of any contamination and remediation from <b>Santa Barbara County Environmental Health</b>.</p>
HISTORIC	22. Does the project site, or an adjacent site, contain <b>historic structures</b> , sites, cultural landscapes, or other resources?	<p>YES    NO    ?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The <b>City's Architectural Historian</b> will determine if a report is needed to evaluate the project. A Historic Structures or Sites Report may be required.</p>
	23. Are structures more than <b>50 years</b> old?		
NOISE	24. Is the site located in an area with <b>ambient noise levels</b> greater than 65 dBA? See MAPS	<p>YES    NO    ?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Describe in the application the source and location of any specific noise generating activities (pneumatic equipment, rock crushing, batch plants, etc.). A <b>Noise Study</b> may be required, and specific project design measures may be required to avoid significant noise impacts.</p>
	25. Will there be <b>subsurface excavation</b> (underground parking structure or basement) or pile driving ?		
	26. Does the proposed use include any <b>activities or equipment</b> with the potential to create noise or vibration?		
	27. Is any <b>amplified noise</b> , outdoor speakers, bells, or chimes proposed?		
TRANSPORTATION	28. Would the project add substantial net <b>peak-hour vehicle traffic</b> to a congested intersection or intersection projected for future congestion?	<p>YES    NO    ?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The <b>City Transportation Division</b> may recommend measures to avoid significant impacts. A Traffic Model, Parking Demand Study, or a <b>Traffic Study</b> prepared by a qualified Transportation Consultant may be required.</p> <p>The project must comply with <a href="#">Transportation Policy and Master Plan</a> documents, as applicable.</p>
	29. Would the project significantly increase <b>Vehicle Miles Traveled</b> ?		
	30. Would the project have inadequate <b>emergency access</b> or create a <b>circulation hazard</b> ?		
	31. Will the project conflict with adopted City policies or programs supporting <b>complete street facilities</b> for alternative travel modes?		

TOPIC	INFORMATION	APPLICABLE	REQUIREMENTS
TREES	32. Does the site contain any <b>mature trees</b> over 4-inches in diameter at a height of 4-and-one-half-feet above grade?	<b>YES</b> <b>NO</b> <b>?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Indicate any trees proposed to be trimmed, removed, or altered, and disruption within root zones. An <b>Arborist Report</b> or <b>Biological Evaluation</b> may be required.
	33. Is the site in a <b>Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone</b> ?		The site must meet defensible space requirements, SBMC <a href="#">8.04</a> .
VISUAL	34. Does the site include an important <b>open space</b> or unique <b>visual resource</b> ?	<b>YES</b> <b>NO</b> <b>?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Additional <b>photo simulations</b> may be required.
	35. Would the project result in substantial <b>light or glare</b> affecting travel or adjacent land uses?	<b>YES</b> <b>NO</b> <b>?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	The site must meet the City's <b>outdoor lighting</b> requirements, see SBMC <a href="#">22.75</a> .