

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-6218

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA AMENDING THE SANTA BARBARA MUNICIPAL CODE BY AMENDING SECTION 25.03.040 PERTAINING TO REGULATIONS FOR SINGLE FAMILY STREAMLINING

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 25.03.040 of Chapter 25.03 of Title 25 of the Santa Barbara Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

25.03.040 Open Yards.

A. **Intent.** These standards provide space for recreational and leisure activities, allow for increased light and air, provide permeable surfaces for storm water retention, improve the visual environment, and increase livability.

B. **Standards.** All open yard minimum area and dimensions shall be in compliance with Section 30.140.140 (Open Yards) based on the proposed building type. The minimum common and private open yard must be located within the design site boundary for each building type.

SECTION 2. Uncodified. Severability and Interpretation

A. **Severability.** If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any persons or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid

provision or application and, to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

B. Interpretation. This Ordinance shall be construed to confer upon the City the maximum power and authority allowed by state and federal law. In the event state or federal law is found to conflict with and preempt any provision of this Ordinance, or in the event state or federal law changes to conflict with and preempt any provision of this Ordinance, the remaining and non-conflicting provisions of this Ordinance shall be interpreted and construed to give maximum effect to the remaining and non-conflicting provisions so as to effectuate, to the greatest extent possible, the purposes and restrictions expressed herein.

SECTION 3. Uncodified. California Environmental Quality Act

This action is exempt from further environmental review pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15305 based on the City's adopted CEQA implementation ordinance per SBMC Section 22.100.070 (List of Ministerial Projects and Categorical Exemptions), Subsection C.5. Class 5: Minor Alternations in Land Use Limitations, Subsection c. Adoption or amendment of land use or development ordinance, regulations, standards, or guidelines that substantially maintain existing land use intensity or density. The amendments to Title 30 are administrative in nature and will not result in any increase in the intensity or density of land use above what is currently allowed under the General Plan Land Use designations. There is no possibility of a significant effect on the environment from this action.

SECTION 4. Uncodified. Effective Date; Applicability to Pending Applications

A. **Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall take effect on May 28, 2026 (“Effective Date”).

B. **Applications Submitted Before Effective Date.** Notwithstanding Subsection A, any building permit application or planning application submitted to the Community Development Department prior to the Effective Date may, at the applicant’s discretion, be processed in accordance with the codes, standards, and regulations in effect at the time of initial submittal; provided that a valid building permit is issued for the proposed project no later than December 17, 2026, and the permit remains valid and does not expire.

C. **Applications Submitted On or After Effective Date.** Any building permit application or planning application submitted to the Community Development Department on or after the Effective Date, shall be subject to the provisions of this Ordinance.

D. **Revisions After the Effective Date.** Any revision or modification to the scope of a project in a manner that increases scope, density, intensity or triggers new requirements under this Ordinance, made on or after the Effective Date, shall comply with all requirements of this Ordinance.

SECTION 5. Uncodified. Typographical Errors.

The Clerk of the City of Santa Barbara is authorized to make the following types of changes to the Santa Barbara Municipal Code: 1) changes to references from other Title

so the Santa Barabara Municipal Code to Title 30; and 2) corrections of grammatical or typographical errors.

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA) ss.
)
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing ordinance was introduced April 14, 2026, and adopted by the Council of the City of Santa Barbara at a meeting held on April 21, 2026, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Eric Friedman, Oscar Gutierrez, Meagan Harmon, Mike Jordan, Wendy Santamaria, Kristen W. Sneddon, Mayor Randy Rowse.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

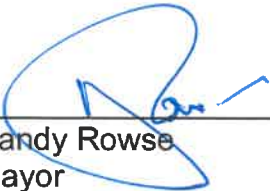
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Santa Barbara on April 21, 2026.





Sarah P. Gorman, MMC
City Clerk Services Manager

I HEREBY APPROVE the foregoing ordinance on April 21, 2026.



Randy Rowse
Mayor