RESOLUTION NO. 2026-XX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING A GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT FOR A SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE (PCTY-25-0002) AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICY UPDATE (PCTY-26-0002)

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA FINDS AND DECLARES AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the City of Costa Mesa is processing amendments to the Costa Mesa General Plan to comply with state law requirements applicable to the Safety Element and environmental justice policies, including Government Code sections 65300 through 65303.4; and

WHEREAS, California law requires every city to adopt a general plan, which must include specified mandatory elements, and may include additional optional elements, in furtherance of State policy to provide a comprehensive, long-term plan for the physical development and use of property within the City's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code section 65350, et. seq., the Safety Element update and Environmental Justice Policy amendments constitutes a General Plan Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Safety Element establishes policies to protect the community from natural and human-caused hazards and improving emergency preparedness and resilience, and California has adopted new legislation requiring local governments to incorporate climate adaptation and updated hazard information into their General Plans including Senate Bill 379 which requires cities to evaluate how climate change may affect future hazards, and Senate Bill 1035 which requires cities to review and revise their Safety Elements using updated flood and fire hazard information as it becomes available; and

WHEREAS, the City adopted a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan on November 4, 2022, following a comprehensive evaluation of hazards, vulnerability assessment, emergency preparedness capabilities, and hazard mitigation strategies, and contains the City's most current hazard assessments and mitigation planning, by amending the Safety Element to incorporate the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan ensures that the General Plan reflects the most up-to-date technical information and maintains consistency among the City's long-

range planning and emergency management documents bringing it into compliance with state law; and

WHEREAS, Government Code section 65302(h), enacted through Senate Bill 1000, requires cities to incorporate Environmental Justice goals, policies, and objectives into the General Plan upon the adoption or substantial revision of two or more General Plan elements; because the City previously updated its Housing Element and is now updating its Safety Element, the City is required to identify and incorporate environmental justice policies throughout the General Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City identified numerous existing General Plan policies that support Environmental Justice objectives and developed targeted revisions to existing policies and several new policies to address areas where additional policy direction was needed to satisfy state requirements; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2026 through August 4, 2026, the draft Safety Element update and Environmental Justice Policy were made available for public review and comment; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting on July 27, 2026, the Planning Commission held a study session to receive an introductory presentation on the Safety Element update and Environmental Justice Policy and after public comment the Planning Commission received and filed the report and provided feedback on the documents; and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2026, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing at which all interested persons had the opportunity to speak for and against the proposed amendments, and recommended 5-1, with one commissioner absent, the City Council adopt the proposed General Plan amendment;

WHEREAS, on September 15, 2026, the City Council held a duly noticed public hearing at which all interested persons had the opportunity to speak for and against the proposed amendments;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the state CEQA Guidelines, the proposed Safety Element update and Environmental Justice policies are exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Exemption), as it can be seen with certainty that adoption of these policy documents will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable significant effect on the

environment. The proposed documents establish goals, policies, and implementation strategies related to hazard mitigation, climate adaptation, greenhouse gas reduction, emergency preparedness, and community resilience, but do not authorize or approve any specific development or physical improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Costa Mesa City Council, in its independent judgment and after fully considering all testimony and evidence presented at the public, hearing hereby finds as follows:

SECTION 1: That the proposed Safety Element update and Environmental Justice Policy update are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3).

SECTION 2: City Council adopts the General Plan Amendment included within Exhibit A, which reflects both the Safety Element update and the Environmental Justice Policy update.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Costa Mesa City Council does hereby find and determine that adoption of this Resolution is expressly predicated upon the activity as described in the staff report, and compliance of all applicable federal, state, and local laws.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any section, division, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this resolution, or the document in the record in support of this resolution, are for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of September, 2026.

_____

John Stephens, Mayor

ATTEST: APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____ _____

Brenda Green, City Clerk Kimberly Hall Barlow, City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ORANGE) ss
CITY OF COSTA MESA)

I, BRENDA GREEN, City Clerk of the City of Costa Mesa, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing is the original of Resolution No. 2026-xx and was duly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Costa Mesa at a regular meeting held on the ___day of _____, 2026, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereby set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Costa Mesa this ___day of _____, 2026.

_____

Brenda Green, City Clerk

EXHIBIT A