

RESOLUTION NO: 97-69

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES  
GRANTING NEGATIVE DECLARATION STATUS FOR  
ZONING CODE AMENMENT 97-0002  
(HILLSIDE GRADING; CITY INTIATED)

WHEREAS, the City Council directed staff to initiate a Zoning Code Amendment with regards to hillside grading standards at their meeting of March 18, 1997, and

WHEREAS, an Initial Study was prepared for this project (Attached as Exhibit A), and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was conducted by the Planning Commission on April 22, 1997 and by the City Council on May 6, 1997, to consider the initial study prepared for this application, and to accept public testimony regarding this proposed environmental determination on the Zoning Code Amendment; and

WHEREAS, based on the relatively limited extent of the additional grading that would be permitted by the code amendment, and the degree to which impacts are off-set by providing more explicit landscaping requirements for manufactured cut and/or fill slopes, the City Council finds that the implementation of the proposed Zoning Code Amendment will not have a significant environmental impact.

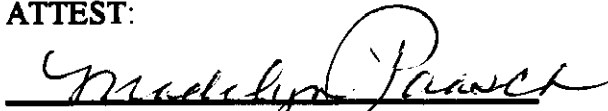
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that based on the City's independent judgment, the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles does hereby grant a Negative Declaration status for Zoning Code Amendment 97-002.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6th day of May, 1997 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Baron, Iversen, Macklin, and Swanson  
NOES: Picanco  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

  
MAYOR DUANE PICANCO

ATTEST:

  
MADELYN PAASCH, CITY CLERK

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**INITIAL STUDY**

DATE: 1 April 1997  
FILE #: Code Amendment 97-002  
APPLICATION: Amendment to City's Hillside and Grading Standards  
APPLICANT: City Initiated

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION: Not site specific.
2. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING: Not site specific.
3. IDENTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: Please see attached Initial Study Checklist.
4. DISCUSSION OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:  
If any of the items on the Initial Study Checklist are marked "Yes/Maybe", please see the attached Analysis for discussion and recommendations for mitigation or further environmental study.
5. CONSISTENCY OF PROJECT WITH EXISTING GENERAL PLAN, ZONING AND OTHER LAND USE CONTROLS:  

☐ This project is consistent with the City's General Plan, Zoning Ordinance and other land use controls.

☒ This project involves a request to change the General Plan, Zoning Ordinance, and/or other land use controls.
6. PERSONS PARTICIPATING IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS INITIAL STUDY:  

Bob Lata, Ed Gallagher
7. DETERMINATION: On the basis of this Initial Study:  

☐ I find that the proposed project could not have a significant effect on the environment, and a Negative Declaration will be prepared.

☒ I find that, although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on the attached Discussion of Environmental Evaluation have been added to the project. A Negative Declaration will be prepared.

☐ I find that there is insufficient information to determine whether the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment and that the applicant needs to provide additional information in the form of an expanded initial study.

☐ I find that the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, and recommend that an Environmental Impact Report be prepared.

By: Robert A. Lata  
Community Development Dir.

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## INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

FILE #: Code Amendment 97-002

APPLICATION: Zoning Code Amendment

APPLICANT: City Initiated

This Initial Study Checklist was completed by reviewing the project application in light of the following:

- a. The City's General Plan, Municipal Code and adopted Standards;
- b. Environmental information and studies maintained by the City;
- c. Consultation, when necessary, with Responsible and Trustee Agencies, as defined by CEQA, and other interested parties;
- d. Observation of the project site in the field.

All items checked "Yes/Maybe" will be discussed in the section entitled "Analysis" attached to this checklist.

If an item is checked "No", the project will either not have a significant effect on the environment, or, any potential significant effects will be mitigated by standard conditions of development required by the City.

Item	Environmental Impact	Yes/Maybe	No
1	LAND USE, POPULATION, HOUSING:		
	a. Alteration of present or planned land use in an area		X
	b. Compatibility with existing or planned land uses in an area	X	
	c. Alteration of location, distribution, density or population growth rate of an area		X
	d. Affect existing housing or create demand for additional housing		X
	e. Airport Land Use Plan		X
2	CIRCULATION/TRANSPORTATION		
	a. Traffic generation		X
	b. Traffic access, movement, hazards		X
	c. Pedestrian, bicycle systems		X
	d. Parking facilities		X
	e. Emergency vehicle access		X
	f. Air, rail operations		X
3	GEOLOGY AND SOILS:		
	a. Unstable earth, changes in geological substructures		X
	b. Changes to soil strata (disruption, displacement, compaction, etc.)	X	
	c. Exposure of people or property to landslides and seismic hazards	X	
	d. Increase in soil erosion	X	

(Revised 5/7/97)

Item	Environmental Impact	Yes/Maybe	No
4	<b>SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE WATER:</b>		
	a. Changes to groundwater flows		X
	b. Groundwater quality and quantity		X
	c. Streamcourse alteration and siltation		X
	d. Increase in runoff, storm drainage impact		X
	e. Other water-related impacts		X
5	<b>VEGETATION AND ANIMAL LIFE:</b>		
	a. Oak trees		X
	b. Other vegetation concerns		X
	c. Wildlife habitats		X
	d. Other wildlife concerns		X
6	<b>AIR QUALITY:</b>		
	a. Creation of air emissions	X	
	b. Creation of objectionable odors		X
	c. Alteration of air movement patterns		X
	d. Other air quality concerns		X
7	<b>PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES:</b>		
	a. Fire protection		X
	b. Police protection		X
	c. Water service		X
	d. Sewer service		X
	e. Street maintenance		X
	f. Other governmental services		X
	g. PG&E		X
	h. So. California Gas Co		X
	i. Sonic Cable TV, Pacific Bell		X
	j. Solid waste disposal		X
8	<b>HEALTH AND SAFETY:</b>		
	a. Noise: Creation of or exposure to		X
	b. Light & Glare: Creation of		X
	c. Electromagnetic disturbance, radiation		X
	d. Health hazards: Creation of or exposure to		X
	e. Fire, Explosion, Chemical spill		X
9	<b>AESTHETICS:</b>		
	a. Visually-sensitive area or corridor	X	
	b. Hillside, grading issues	X	
	c. Other aesthetic concerns	X	

Item	Environmental Impact	Yes/Mayb e	No
10	PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE:		
	a. Impact on public parks and recreation		X
	b. Generates need for private recreation		X
	c. Need to maintain open space		X
11	CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL:		
	a. Historic and/or cultural sites		X
	b. Archaeological sites		X
12	NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY:		
	a. Natural resources supply		X
	b. Energy supply		X
13	MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:		
	a. Potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a wildlife species, cause wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory		X
	b. Potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals		X
	c. Impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable		X
	d. Substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly		X

### Analysis of Significant Impacts / Potentially Significant Impacts on the Environment

(Supplement to Initial Study Checklist, Addressing "Yes/Maybe"  
responses)

#### Subject and Analysis of Level of Significance / Potential Significance:

1. Land Use, Population, Housing: The proposed code amendment would not modify the land use entitlement; the extent of grading would be the only issue of compatibility.
2. Circulation / Transportation: No impacts
3. Geology and Soils: The creation of cut and/or fill slopes would result in increased grading, which would change the compaction of the soil, increase the potential for landslides,

and have a greater tendency toward erosion. Adequate review by engineering professionals should minimize the danger to less than significant levels.

4. Surface and Subsurface Water: No effects.
5. Vegetation and Animal Life: No effects.
6. Air Quality: Increased grading would likely result in increased emissions during construction, but not to a significant degree. Grading all of a subdivision would probably create less emissions than grading of each lot on an individual basis.
7. Public Services and Utilities: No effects.
8. Health and Safety: No effects.
9. Aesthetics: The appearance of cut and or fill slopes is anticipated to be the most sensitive issue. The proposed code amendment suggested minimum landscaping standards that should reduce the degree of impact to less than significant levels.
10. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space: No effects.
11. Cultural, Historical and Archaeological: No effects.
12. Natural Resources and Energy: No effects.

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