



# Ordinance Fact Sheet

March 17, 2025

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL  
**FROM:** CITY ATTORNEY  
**SUBJECT:** AN UNCODIFIED ORDINANCE PROTECTING QUALIFYING TENANTS  
AFFECTED BY THE EATON FIRE

## TITLE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE

**AN UNCODIFIED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PASADENA PROTECTING  
QUALIFYING INCOME ELIGIBLE TENANTS DIRECTLY FINANCIALLY IMPACTED  
BY THE EATON FIRE**

## PURPOSE OF ORDINANCE

As directed by the City Council on March 3, 2025, this ordinance establishes an affirmative defense to eviction for tenants unable to pay rent due to the Eaton Fire, and is modeled after the protections recently adopted by the County of Los Angeles.

## REASON WHY LEGISLATION IS NEEDED

This legislation is needed to protect the City's most vulnerable tenants from displacement related to the Eaton Fire, which will preserve public health, order, and safety citywide. Currently, there is no such protection.

## PROGRAMS, DEPARTMENTS OR GROUPS AFFECTED

Qualifying tenants with a direct financial impact from the Eaton Fire, and the landlords of those tenants, will be affected by the proposed ordinance.

03/24/2025  
MEETING OF 03/17/2025  
AGENDA ITEM NO. -19- 14

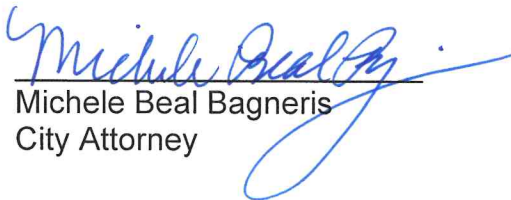
**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the adoption of this uncodified ordinance.


**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION**


Council is being asked to find that the uncodified ordinance is statutorily exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA excludes from environmental review actions that are not "projects", as defined by Section 21065 of the Public Resources Code and Sections 15378 and 15060 of the California Code of Regulations. Sections 21065 and 15378(b) define a project as an action which may cause either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Section 15378 excludes from the definition of "project" organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. If City Council undertakes organizational or administrative activities, such as creating ordinances that further safeguard and assist those affected by the Eaton Fire, these actions would be administrative activities, and therefore would not be a "project" as defined by CEQA. Section 15060 (C)(2) states that projects which will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment are not subject to CEQA. Since the actions would not a project subject to CEQA, no environmental document is required.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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