

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-030

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROHNERT PARK, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING AN INITIAL STUDY AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR AMENDMENTS OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO UPDATE SIGN REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, the applicant, the City of Rohnert Park, filed Planning Application No. PL2013-029MC proposing to amend specified sections of the Rohnert Park Municipal Code ("RPMC") by amending Chapter 17.04 Definitions and Chapter 17.27 Signs of the City of Rohnert Park Zoning Ordinance;

WHEREAS, the purpose of Ordinance No. 876 is to approve amendments to Chapter 17.04 Definitions and Chapter 17.27 sign to update the sign regulations that will better address new sign types and technologies that have emerged over the past several years, provide more enforceable sign code provisions, and create a more user-friendly code that is more readable and easier to understand and interpret;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, an Initial Study was prepared for the project and on the basis of substantial evidence in the whole record, there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment therefore a Negative Declaration has been prepared which reflects the lead agency's independent judgment and analysis.

WHEREAS, pursuant to California State Law and the Rohnert Park Municipal Code, a public notice was published in the Community Voice for a minimum of 20 days prior to the first public hearing; and

WHEREAS, on November 14, 2013, the Planning Commission held the first public hearing at which time interested persons had an opportunity to testify either in support or opposition to the proposal;

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2014 the Planning Commission held a second public hearing at which time interested persons had an opportunity to testify either in support or opposition to the proposal;

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed and considered the information contained in the staff report and the Zoning Ordinance Amendment materials and held a public hearing on March 25, 2014.

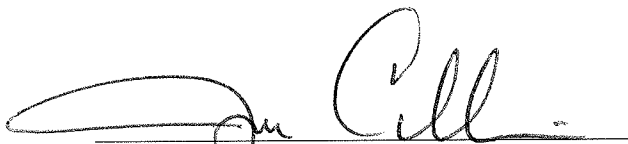
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Rohnert Park hereby approves the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for amendments of the Zoning Ordinance to streamline the permitting requirements for certain businesses based on the following findings:

1. An Initial Study (Exhibit A) was prepared for the project and indicates the project will not have a significant effect on the environment therefore a Negative Declaration (Exhibit A) has been prepared which reflects the lead agency's independent judgment and analysis. The City provided the public review period for the Negative Declaration for the duration required under CEQA. The City Council finds that on the basis of substantial evidence in the whole record, there is no substantial evidence from which it could be fairly argued that that the project will have a significant effect on the environment. The record of the proceedings on which this decision is based shall be maintained by the City of Rohnert Park Planning Division, which documents and other materials are located at City Hall, 130 Avram Avenue, Rohnert Park, California.
2. The project would not result in an impact to endangered, threatened or rare species or their habitats, including but not limited to plants, fish, insects, animals and birds. There are no native species or plants, no unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species of plants, no sensitive native vegetation that will be affected by these Zoning Ordinance amendments.
3. The Development Services Director is hereby directed to file a Notice of Determination with respect to the IS/ND with the County Clerk of the County of Sonoma.

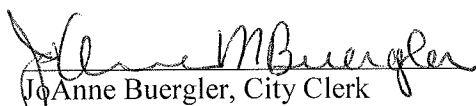
DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED on this 25th day of March 2014, by the City of Rohnert Park City Council.



CITY OF ROHNERT PARK


Joseph T. Callinan, Mayor

ATTEST:

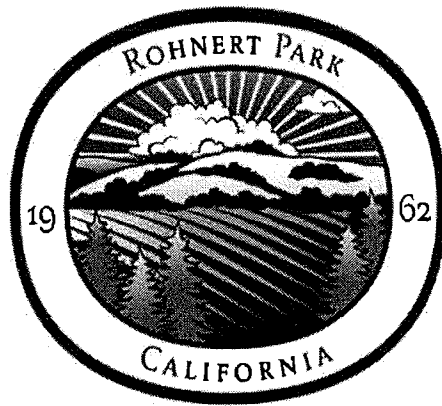

JoAnne Buergler, City Clerk

Attachment – Exhibit A

BELFORTE: AYE MACKENZIE: AYE STAFFORD: ABSENT AHANOTU: AYE CALLINAN: AYE
AYES: (4) NOES: (0) ABSENT: (1) ABSTAIN: (0)


EXHIBIT A

**Initial Study and Negative Declaration
Amendments to Sign Code**



INITIAL STUDY & NEGATIVE DECLARATION

BACKGROUND

1. Project Title: Amendments to the Sign Code
(Chapter 17.27 of the Municipal Code)
2. Lead Agency Name and Address: City of Rohnert Park
Development Services
130 Avram Avenue
Rohnert Park, CA 94928
3. Contact Person and Phone Number: Jeffrey S. Beiswenger
Planner III
City of Rohnert Park
707.588.2253
4. Project Location: Applies to all signs City wide
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address: City of Rohnert Park
Development Services
130 Avram Avenue
Rohnert Park, CA 94928
6. General Plan Designation: N/A
7. Zoning: N/A
8. Project Description Summary: This proposal is to revise Chapter 17.  Signs of the Zoning Ordinance (Title 17 of the Municipal Code). These are signs permitted throughout Rohnert Park. The primary purpose is to update sign regulations to simplify them and make them easier to administer, help streamline the procedures for businesses and better address City policy.

SOURCES

The following documents are referenced information sources utilized by this analysis: N/A

2 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact." A more detailed assessment may be found on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gases | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use & Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy & Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population & Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation & Circulation | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

1 DETERMINATION

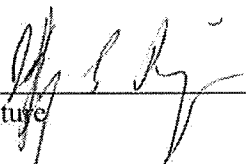
On the basis of this initial study:

- ☒ 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 revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the applicant. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the Proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier General Plan EIR pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided

or mitigated pursuant to that earlier General Plan EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080(c)(2) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(1), the City of Rohnert Park, as lead agency for the proposed project, has prepared an initial study to make the following findings:

1. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, the proposed activity is adequately described and is within the scope of the General Plan EIR.
2. There is no substantial evidence before the lead agency that the subsequent project may have a significant effect on the environment.
3. The analyses of cumulative impacts, growth inducing impacts, and irreversible significant effects on the environment contained in the General Plan EIR are adequate for this subsequent project.
4. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21157.6(a), having reviewed the General Plan EIR, the City of Rohnert Park finds and determines that:
 - a. no substantial changes have occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the General Plan EIR was certified, and
 - b. that there is no new available information which was not and could not have been known at the time the General Plan EIR was certified.



Signature

10-23-2014

Date

Jeffrey S. Beiswenger, AICP Planner III

Printed Name

City of Rohnert Park

For

2 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

Regulations relating to signs within the City of Rohnert Park are included within Chapter 17.27 Signs of the Zoning Ordinance (Title 17 of the Municipal Code). These provisions apply to all signs within the City unless listed as exempt by this chapter. The purpose of the revisions are to better address new sign types and technologies that have emerged over the past several years, provide more enforceable sign code provisions, create a more user-friendly code that is more readable and easier to understand and interpret.

3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposal is to revise portions of Chapter 17.27 Signs of the Zoning Ordinance. The following changes are proposed within each section of the chapter.

- **17.27.010 (Purpose).** Purpose statements have been added to clarify that the regulations are intended protect residential districts, allow for reasonable advertising opportunities and that regulations are variable based on the applicable zoning district.
- **17.27.020 (Applicability).** The current code “exempts” sign copy from regulation. The proposed code language eliminates this reference to “sign copy,” since the sign regulation do, in fact, apply directly or indirectly to sign copy in several instances.
- **17.27.030 (Sign permit and sign program requirements).** A number of changes are proposed to this chapter to increase the effectiveness of sign regulations:
 - The cases where a sign program (versus a sign permit) will be required are increased in the proposed ordinance. The proposed language will require a sign program to all non-residential projects with three or more tenants (instead of four) and any commercial building over 20,000 square feet or occupying two or more acres.
 - Additional findings have been added which will need to be made by the approval authority related to the following topics: the appropriate amount of information that can be included on a sign; the graphic composition and the appropriate use of color; and compatibility of signs with building architecture.
 - The requirement for photographs of the existing condition has been removed.
 - Code language has been clarified about when an “approval period” begins and when an extension may be requested. This will start a one-year clock upon the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy.
- **17.27.040 (Exempt signs).** A number of clarifications have been made to this section and some additional exempt signs have been added, including:
 - Limitations have been added on directional signs: one permitted per entrance, four square feet in area; and five feet in height. If a directional sign is setback more than 100 feet from a public way, then the area can be increased to ten square feet in area.

- Flag poles provisions have not changed except for a restriction on wooden flag poles. Many types of flag poles are readily available and wood flag poles are subject to breakage and maintenance problems.
- Signs provisions related to live-work units have been changes to allow slightly larger identification signs (two square feet versus one square foot).
- Limits on construction and subdivision signs have been clarified and a provision has been added to allow the city to require more than one subdivision project to be listed on a single sign.
- **17.27.050 (Prohibited signs).** A number of items have been added to the list of prohibited signs and some additional provisions have been incorporated, including:
 - Animated or moving signs are prohibited including signs held by a mechanical mannequin.
 - In general, roof signs are prohibited, except if approved as part of a discretionary design review process.
 - Additional language has been added to the restriction on vehicle signage to clarify that portable signs are not permitted anywhere, including public streets. Graphics painted or otherwise affixed to a vehicle for branding purposes are not included in this prohibition.
 - The list of signs that could be overly distracting or confusing to drivers has been expanded (e.g. signs that resemble traffic control devices and sound that could produce emissions).
 - Painted signs and statuary (if used as a sign) are prohibited.
 - Signs that are not maintained or are structurally or mechanically defective are prohibited.
- **17.27.060 (General sign requirements).**
 - Provisions related to sign illumination have been added to limit the hours that a sign can be lighted in the vicinity of a residential district (unless the business is open during those hours). No movement of the illumination is permitted.
 - Additional sign maintenance provisions have been added to reinforce the obligation of a property owner to ensure that a sign does not fall into disrepair.
- **17.27.070 (Zoning district sign standards).** The section contains development standards organized in a series of tables. These tables are complex and difficult to interpret. The proposed changes are minor and are intended to reduce the complexity without radically changing the code requirements. All the tables included within this section have been reformatted and reorganized to improve readability. The tables that apply to commercial, mixed-use, office and industrial districts have been amended to

separate out free-standing signs from building mounted signs. As a result the amount of signage permitted per parcel has increased slightly and the number of signs permitted per parcel has increased by one (since free-standing signs are now separate from building mounted signs). A clarification has been added to building mounted signs on the second floor or above. The existing code only assumes two story buildings and does not address multi-story structures. The change will allow a larger, building mounted directory sign for each floor.

- **17.27.080 (Special sign type requirements).** This section includes provisions that apply to specific sign types. Only a few changes are proposed. Additional limits have been placed on the size of awning signs (e.g. logos, graphics and lettering). This sign is limited to the business name, logo and business type.

4 DISCRETIONARY ACTION

Implementation of the proposed project would require the following discretionary actions by the City of Rohnert Park Planning Commission and City Council:

- Adoption of a resolution by the Planning Commission to recommend that the City Council adopt this negative declaration along with the sign code text amendments; and
- Adoption of this negative declaration by the City Council; and
- Adoption of the sign code text amendments.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

The following section adapts and completes the environmental checklist form presented in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. The checklist is used to describe the impacts of the proposed project.

For this checklist, the following designations are used:

Potentially Significant Impact: An impact that could be significant, and for which no mitigation has been identified. If any potentially significant impacts are identified, an EIR must be prepared.

Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated: An impact that requires mitigation to reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level.

Less-Than-Significant Impact: Any impact that would not be considered significant under CEQA relative to existing standards.

No Impact: The project would not have any impact.

I. AESTHETICS

Would the project:

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>

a-d All of the proposed changes would not significantly increase the visual impact of signs within the community. New signs constructed under the proposed regulations would generally have a lesser visual impact than those constructed under the existing sign regulations. Any potential direct environmental impact from the construction of a new sign may require an environmental evaluation prior to construction if an off-premises sign is proposed. The change of sign copy for an existing on-premise or off-premise sign is exempt from CEQA under Categorical Exemption Class 1 Section 15301 Existing Facilities. New on-premise sign are generally exempt from CEQA under Categorical Exemption Class II (Accessory Structures).

II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland.

Would the project:

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
c. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could individually or cumulatively result in loss of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x

a-c There is very little land in Rohnert Park under agricultural use. Any that does exist would be developed under a Specific Plan with CEQA documentation for the Specific plan.

III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

Would the project:

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?				
d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x

a-e This amendment would apply to all signs within Rohnert Park, but only signs. No impact to air quality is expected from sign code regulations. Any impact from sign construction would be evaluated at the time of construction. The construction of an on-premise sign will generally be exempt from CEQA under Categorical Exemption Class 11 Section 15311 Accessory Structures. A new off-premise sign is typically not exempt. New copy on an off-premise or on-premise sign is typically exempt from CEQA under Categorical Exemption Class 1 Section 15301 Existing Facilities.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

a-f This amendment would apply to all signs within Rohnert Park, but only signs and no impact to Biological Resources is expected. The construction of an on-premise sign will generally be exempt from CEQA under Categorical Exemption Class 11 Section 15311 Accessory Structures. A new off-premise sign is typically not exempt, but any potential impact would be addressed at the time of sign construction. New copy on an off-premise or on-premise sign is typically exempt from CEQA under Categorical Exemption Class 1 Section 15301 Existing Facilities.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource on site or unique geologic features?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x

a-d This amendment would apply to all signs within Rohnert Park, but only signs. The construction of an on-premise sign will generally be exempt from CEQA under Categorical Exemption Class 11 Section 15311 Accessory Structures. A new off-premise sign is typically not exempt but any impact on Cultural Resources would be evaluated at the prior to construction. New copy on an off-premise or on-premise sign is typically exempt from CEQA under Categorical Exemption Class 1 Section 15301 Existing Facilities.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist - Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
iv. Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				
e. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1B of the Uniform Building Code?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

a-f This amendment would apply to all signs within Rohnert Park, but only signs. The construction of an on-premise sign will generally be exempt from CEQA under Categorical Exemption Class 11 Section 15311 Accessory Structures. A new off-premise sign is typically not exempt, but any potential impacts on Geology and Soil would be evaluated prior to construction. New copy on an off-premise or on-premise sign is typically exempt from CEQA under Categorical Exemption Class 1 Section 15301 Existing Facilities.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS¹

Would the project:

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the atmosphere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b. Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Legislative Context

California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32)

In September 2006, the Governor signed AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act (Health and Safety Code Section 38500 et. seq.). The Act codifies the executive order for reduction of statewide GHG emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. This change, which is estimated to be a 25 to 35 percent reduction from current emission levels, will be accomplished through an enforceable statewide cap on GHG emissions that was phased in starting in 2012.

SB 375

On September 30, 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Senate Bill (SB) 375 into law. This legislation links transportation and land use planning with the CEQA process to help achieve the GHG emission reduction targets set by AB 32.

Even before the passage of AB32 and SB375, the City of Rohnert Park initiated actions to reduce GHG emissions and become more sustainable overall. These actions include:

- California 2010 Building Code
- Energy Efficiency Ordinance 2007-779. This ordinance also established Title 14-Sustainability, in the Municipal Code (March 2007)
- City Council adopted resolution 2004-111, which set a goal for GHG reductions of 20 percent by the year 2010 for internal City operations (baseline year 2000) (May 2004)
- City Council adopted resolution 2005-233, which sets a goal of green house gas reductions of 25 percent by the year 2015 for community-wide use, private and public (baseline year 1990) (July 2005)

This project is not a building that would be covered under the Cal Green.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the likely release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
h. Expose people or structures to the risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

a-h This amendment would apply to all signs within Rohnert Park, but only signs. The construction of an on-premise sign will generally be exempt from CEQA under Categorical Exemption Class 11 Section 15311 Accessory Structures. A new off-premise sign is typically not exempt and any new Hazards or Hazardous Materials would be addressed prior to sign construction. New copy on an off-premise or on-premise sign is typically exempt from CEQA under Categorical Exemption Class 1 Section 15301 Existing Facilities.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (i.e., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
g. Place housing within a 100-year floodplain, as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
h. Place within a 100-year floodplain structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
j. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x

a-j This amendment would apply to all signs within Rohnert Park, but only signs. The construction of an on-premise sign will generally be exempt from CEQA under Categorical Exemption Class 11 Section 15311 Accessory Structures. A new off-premise sign is typically not exempt and any changes to site hydrology or impact on water quality that may result from construction activities would be addressed prior to those activities. New copy on an off-premise or on-premise sign is typically exempt from CEQA under Categorical Exemption Class 1 Section 15301 Existing Facilities.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a. Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
b. Conflict with any applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating on environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community's conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x

a-c This amendment would apply to all signs within Rohnert Park, but only signs. The proposed changes are consistent with the Rohnert Park General Plan and no impact to Land Use and Planning objective will result from the proposed code amendments.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x

a-b This amendment would apply to all signs within Rohnert Park, but only signs and no impact to Mineral Resources will Occur.

XII. NOISE

Would the project result in:

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
e. For a project located within an airport land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x

a-f This amendment would apply to all signs within Rohnert Park, but only signs. Noise from signs is prohibited by the sign ordinance. Noise from construction activities would be addressed at the time of sign construction and most sign construction activities are exempt from CEQA (except for off-site signage).

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x

a-c This amendment would apply to all signs within Rohnert Park, but only signs. The proposed amendment do not have any impact on Population and Housing.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a. Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b. Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c. Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d. Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

a-d This amendment would apply to all signs within Rohnert Park, but only signs. The proposed sign code does improve the ability to place directional signs in the public right-of-way. This will have the benefit of improving “wayfinding” within the community, which will increase public safety since it will be easier for motorists to navigate the community.

XV. RECREATION

Would the project:

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

a-b This amendment would apply to all signs within Rohnert Park, but only signs and would have no impact on Recreation facilities.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION

Would the project:

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a. Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b. Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design features (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e. Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f. Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
a. Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

a-f This amendment would apply to all signs within Rohnert Park, but only signs and would have no negative impact on transportation and circulation. Provisions have been added to the sign code to clarify what can be placed within the public right-of-way, such will reduce visual clutter and create a safer driving environment.

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
Control Board?				
b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c. Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
g. Comply with federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

a-g This amendment would apply to all signs within Rohnert Park, but only signs and have no impact on utility and service systems.

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-Than- Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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?				
b. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
c. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
d. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x

a-d This amendment would apply to all signs within Rohnert Park, but only signs. All of the Mandatory Findings of Significant do not apply, since the proposed sign code text will have no impact on the environment.