



For Office Use:  
Date and Receiving Department

# Public Records Act Request Form

Office of the City Clerk

This form is used by the City of Sebastopol to process requests for public records made pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sec. 6250 et seq.) and will be responded to within 10 days.

Public record requests may be made in person, by letter, or by email. Copies of records will only be released after reproduction costs have been paid (if applicable)

### Description of Records Requested

Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Range of Records: \_\_\_\_\_

*Describe record, be as specific as possible, including the name of record and any file, incident, or case numbers, if known.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*If requesting records pertaining to an **address** or **location** in the city, please indicate location here:  
(For example, 1111 Main Street or intersection of Pope Street and Main Street or Assessor's Parcel Number "APN")*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Please indicate how you would prefer to receive your response

*Please note there is never a fee to review records in person once they have been prepared; fees only apply for duplication of records. The city makes every attempt to utilize email when requested; however, sometimes due to the nature of the record (oversized plans) or size/volume of the responsive documents it may not always be possible to respond via email.*

Review in Office  E-mail Response  Paper Copies  Mailed (USPS)  Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

### Requestor Contact Information

*Providing your contact information provides the City with contact information and is only used to contact you to advise you when your request is completed. Please note this form is subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Request Act.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (required for response by email): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (required for response by mail): \_\_\_\_\_

## City of Sebastopol Public Records

The City of Sebastopol is responsive to the public's need for information about the city and the business of city government. It is the goal of the City to provide services in a transparent manner, which includes timely access to requested records. Most importantly the City of Sebastopol understands and supports the public's right to access the majority of the records created and maintained by the City during the course of normal business. City staff will assist in identifying responsive records by, as appropriate, describing relevant City records. The City has ten (10) days to respond to any request for public records; however, all requests will be filled as soon as possible. Should unusual circumstances exist, as provided in California Government Code Section 6253.9(c), the City may extend the time for a response by an additional fourteen (14) days. If an extension is warranted, the requestor will be notified.

## What is a Record?

Per the California Public Records Act (CA GC 6250-6270): A "public record" includes any writing containing information relating to the conduct of the public's business prepared, owned, used or retained by the City of Sebastopol regardless of physical form or characteristics. Records are not just printed or handwritten documents, they may be video recordings or information in a database. "Writing" means handwriting, typewriting, printing, photocopying, photographing, transmitting by electronic mail or facsimile, and every other means of recording upon any tangible thing, any form of communication or representation including letters, words, pictures, sounds or symbols, or any combination thereof, and any record thereby created, regardless of the manner in which the record has been stored.

## What Records are Exempt from Disclosure?

*(Partial listing, for full listing see California Government Code Section 6250)*

**Attorney-Client discussions** are confidential, even if the agency is the client (§§ 6254(k), 6254.25, 6276.04).

**Preliminary drafts, notes and memos** may be withheld only if: (1) they are "not retained...in the ordinary course of business" and (2) "the public interest in withholding clearly outweighs the public interest in disclosure."

**Home Addresses** of local agency utility customers and public employee records are exempt, as are addresses of certain crime victims (§§ 6254(f), (u), 6254.1, 6254.3, 6254.4, 6254.16, 6254.21).

**Records concerning agency litigation** are exempt, until the claim is resolved or settled (§§ 6254(b), 6254.25).

**Records not yet in existence:** The CPRA covers only records that already exist, and an agency cannot be required to create a record, list, or compilation. "Rolling requests" for future-generated records are not permitted.

**Police Incident reports, rap sheets and arrest records** are exempt (Penal Code §§ 11075, 11105, 11105.1), but information in the "police blotter" must be disclosed unless disclosure would endanger an investigation or the life of an investigator.

## Fees

Access to view public records is free. Requestors may review the requested items during regular business hours, at a time and place that will not disrupt day-to-day operations in the presence of a city employee, at no charge. Records may be duplicated. Duplication fees, if applicable, must be paid prior to receiving copies of records. Duplication of official building plans will not be produced by the City until the City requests and receives written permission to do so from both the owner and the design professional who prepared the plan(s).

Please Note: Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, City Offices are Closed to the Public. PRAs will be responded to either by email or regular mail delivery.