

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

NAPA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING BUILDING &  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
1195 THIRD STREET, SUITE 210  
NAPA CA 94559

To: ☒ Office of Planning and Research  
PO Box 0334  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ Napa County Clerk  
900 Coombs St  
Napa, CA 94559

**PROJECT TITLE:** Rios Farming Company Aetna Springs Water Storage Reservoir

**PERMIT(S):** Grading Permit #ENG25-00005

**PROJECT LOCATION - SPECIFIC:** The project is located within the Pope Creek - South Fork Drainage on an approximately 100-acre parcel located south side of Aetna Springs Road approximately 1,250 feet west of its intersection with Butts Canyon Road / Pope Valley Road (APN 018-300-021) (1803 Aetna Springs Road), Napa County, California (Zoning: Agricultural Watershed).

**PROJECT LOCATION - CITY (NEAREST):** CALISTOGA

**PROJECT LOCATION - COUNTY:** NAPA

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Grading and earthmoving activities associated with the construction of a 75 acre-foot capacity water storage reservoir on gently sloping land (typically 0% to 5%) within a 6.2 acre area of existing vineyard.

**NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT:** Napa County Planning Building & Environmental Services Department

**NAME OF PERSON(S) OR AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT:** Matthew Bueno (#RPE 84114), PPI Engineering

**ADDRESS:** 2800 Jefferson Street, Napa CA 94558

**PHONE:** # 707-253-1806

**EXEMPT STATUS (CHECK ONE):** (Also, see Appendix B of the *Napa Co Local Procedures for Implementing the CEQA*)

☐ Ministerial [Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268];

☐ Declared Emergency [Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)];

☐ Emergency Project [Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15268(b)(c)];

☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: **Class (Type):** 3, 4

**Section #:** 15303 & 15304

☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

☐ General Rule: [Sec.15061(b)(3)]

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** Project is the grading, earthmoving activities associated with the construction of a 75-acre-foot capacity water storage reservoir on shallow slopes (slopes ranging typically from 0-5%) located within an area of approximately 6.2 acres within an existing vineyard. The proposed reservoir would meet minimum setbacks from the property boundaries, and Swartz Creek located approximately 650 feet to the north, and would entirely be within the previously disturbed vineyard area. Pursuant to State Section number 15304, the project is located on less than 10% slopes and not located within any waterway or geologic hazard area. The project area is not situated on a recognized hazardous waste site or in a biologically sensitive area and would not exacerbate any known landslide. The proposed reservoir would be filled with existing vineyard subsurface drainage system, drainage installed blow the reservoir, and rainfall. This project will not adversely affect cultural or scenic resources, and the project is conditioned to require protections for such resources if any are discovered. The proposed project would not substantially interfere with the movement of wildlife. In addition, it will not contribute to increases in local off-site stream flows or sediment levels, reductions in groundwater recharge, groundwater levels, or available wildlife habitat, or changes in other environmental parameters. Finally, there are no unusual circumstances associated with this project that would cause it to have a significant effect on the environment: see project file at the Napa County Department of Planning, Building, and Environmental Services for documentation supporting these conclusions.

**LEAD AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:** Kelli Cahill, Planner III, kelli.cahill@countyofnapa.org

**PHONE:** (707) 265-2325

Signature: Kelli Cahill Date: 5-14-25 Title: Planner III  
Kelli Cahill

☒ Signed by Lead Agency  
☐ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR:    /    /