State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife

2025 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/25) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER: 49-12162025-491

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER *(If applicable)*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE
CITY OF PETALUMA CITY MANAGER		12/16/2025

COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING	DOCUMENT NUMBER
SONOMA	25-1216-01

PROJECT TITLE

CITY OF PETALUMA AMENDMENT TO SECTION 13.45.030, "PUBLIC USE" IN CHAPTER 13.45 ENTITLED

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
CITY OF PETALUMA CITY MANAGER		(707) 615-6568

PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
11 ENGLISH ST	PETALUMA	CA	94953

PROJECT APPLICANT *(Check appropriate box)*

☒ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	$4,123.50	$
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	$2,968.75	$
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	$1,401.75	$

☒ Exempt from fee

- ☒ Notice of Exemption (attach)
- ☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)

☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	$850.00	$
☒ County documentary handling fee		$ $50.00
☐ Other		$

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☒ Other **TOTAL RECEIVED** $ $50.00

SIGNATURE	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE
x Carrie Anderson	Carrie Anderson, Deputy County Clerk-Recorder

ORIGINAL - PROJECT APPLICANT | COPY - CDFW/ASB | COPY - LEAD AGENCY | COPY - COUNTY CLERK | DFW 753.5a (Rev. 01012025)

This notice was posted on 12/16/2025
and will remain posted for a period of thirty days
through 01/16/2026

Doc No.49-12162025-491

RETURN TO:

City of Petaluma, City Attorneys Office
11 English Street
Petaluma, CA 94952

Deva Marie Proto, County Clerk
BY: _____
Carrie Anderson, Deputy Clerk

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

TO: Sonoma County Clerk
585 Fiscal Drive, Room 103
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Project Title: City of Petaluma Amendment to Section 13.45.030, "Public Use" In Chapter 13.45 Entitled "Preservation and Access to Lafferty Ranch" of the Petaluma Municipal Code

Project Applicant: City of Petaluma City Manager, 11 English Street, Petaluma, CA 94953; (707) 615-6568

Project Location: 270 acres located on Sonoma Mountain, northeast of the City of Petaluma, in unincorporated Sonoma County; APN 136-170-001 and SMP Map B31

Project Description: Amendment to Petaluma Municipal Code Section 13.45.030, "Public Use" In Chapter 13.45 titled "Preservation and Access to Lafferty Ranch" to provide for continued passive recreational use of Lafferty Ranch by the public. The amendment would clarify that docent-led hikes approved by the City constitute a permissible form of passive recreational use and may be conducted without the need for a Council-adopted plan or interim plan. Docent-led hikes would be limited to a maximum of 10 per calendar month, with each hike limited to 20 participants, exclusive of docents. Docents would be approved by the City Manager or designee, which may include a contractor, based on the docent's qualifications. Animals other than service animals would not be permitted on the hikes.

EXEMPT STATUS: **Statutory Exemption(s)** [X] General Rule {Sec.15061(b)(3)}
Categorical Exemptions [X] Existing Facilities {Sec.15301}Minor Alterations to Land {Sec.15304}

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project, to amend Section 13.45.030 of the City of Petaluma Municipal Code, is exempt from CEQA under the common sense exemption (Guidelines §15061(b)(3)) because it merely ratifies and continues the City's existing docent-led hike program and minor access improvements at Lafferty Ranch Park, which have already been implemented and previously determined to be exempt in Notices of Exemption filed April 22, 2021, November 8, 2022, and October 10, 2023, and therefore it can be seen with certainty that no new significant environmental effects will result. The amendment clarifies that City-approved docent-led hikes, limited to a maximum of 10 per calendar month with up to 20 participants per hike (exclusive of docents) and no animals other than service animals, are a permissible form of passive recreational use and may occur without a Council-adopted plan or interim plan, continuing the same passive recreational access that has already been occurring on the property. The docent-led hikes will continue to use existing access roads, staging/parking areas, and previously disturbed or managed portions of the site, and will be supervised by City-approved docents, so the type, location, and intensity of use will remain low, intermittent, and substantially the same as existing conditions. Independently and in the alternative, the Project is categorically exempt under Guidelines §15301 (Class 1, Existing Facilities) as it involves only the ongoing operation, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing facilities and improvements needed to accommodate limited docent-led hikes, and under Guidelines §15304 (Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land) because any physical work associated with the program is limited to minor rock placement on existing driveway/parking surfaces and small-scale weed abatement or brushing for safe access that does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees, grading, or other substantial ground disturbance. The Project does not authorize any new buildings, utilities, lighting, roadway extensions, or other construction, and Lafferty Ranch Park will continue to function as protected open space with controlled public access. Docent-led hikes also include an educational and stewardship component that encourages participants to remain on established routes and respect natural and cultural resources, further reducing the potential for environmental impacts. There are no unusual circumstances creating a reasonable possibility of a significant effect, the site is not listed on any hazardous waste site list, the Project does not affect a designated scenic highway or historical resource, and therefore none of the exceptions to the use of categorical exemptions in Guidelines §15300.2 apply.

Lead Agency: City of Petaluma City Manager 11 English Street, Petaluma, CA 94953

Department/Contact Person: Dylan Brady, Assistant City Attorney **Phone:** (707) 778-4497

Assistant City Attorney

December 16, 2025
Date

Pursuant to Section 711 4(d)(2) of the Fish and Game Code, statutory and categorical exemptions are exempt from Department of Fish and Wildlife filing fees.