

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 Usibelli Water Storage Reservoir

PERMIT(S): Grading Permit #ENG25-00020

PROJECT LOCATION - SPECIFIC: The project is located within the Burton Creek Drainage on an approximately 520-acre parcel located south side of Hardin Road approximately 0.42 miles east of its intersection with Pope Canyon Road (APN 018-160-026) (1900 Maxwell Canyon Road), Napa County, California (Zoning: Agricultural Watershed).

PROJECT LOCATION – CITY (NEAREST): ST HELENA

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 6.1 acre area with a 520 acre parcel.

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 6.1 acres. The proposed reservoir would meet minimum setbacks from the property boundaries, and ephemeral stream located northeast and south. 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. This project will not adversely affect cultural, biological, or scenic resources, and the project is conditioned to require environmental commitments. 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: January 9, 2026 Title: Planner III
Kelli Cahill

☒ Signed by Lead Agency
☐ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: / /