



Doc No.49-03132026-073

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research

P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Sonoma

From: (Public Agency): Sonoma Resource Conservation
District

1221 Farmers Lane, Suite F
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

(Address)

Project Title: Sonoma Mountain Road Shaded Fuel Break

Project Applicant: Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District

Project Location - Specific: Along Sonoma Mountain Road in the Rancho Adobe community in Petaluma

(MDM- 05N-07W-1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 14, 15; MDM-06N-07W-25, 26, 31, 36; MDM-06N-06W-31)

Project Location - City: Petaluma

Project Location - County: Sonoma

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The project area is located along Sonoma Mountain Road in Petaluma, on the western side of Sonoma Mountain. The proposed project consists of constructing a 169-acre shaded fuel break along Sonoma Mountain Road. Hazardous fuels, including understory and mid-story vegetation, will be removed from both sides of the road to reduce wildfire risk and improve safe ingress and egress.

In areas with gentle to moderate slopes, crews will treat vegetation up to 100 feet on both sides of the road. In areas where slopes exceed 50 percent, treatment will be limited to 30 feet on both sides of the road. On steep slopes, slash will be dragged downslope to the road prior to processing. A tracked chipper will be used to chip woody material, and chips will be broadcast onsite to a depth of no more than six inches. In steep areas, slash will be chipped at the road surface to minimize soil disturbance.

Vegetation within the project area is primarily annual and perennial grassland. Smaller portions include hardwood forest, riparian forest, and herbaceous wetland communities. Fire Hazard Severity is classified as predominantly Moderate in the southern half of the project area and High in the northern half. Slopes are generally gentle to moderate in the southern portion and range from gentle to extremely steep in parts of the northern portion. However, extremely steep slopes are limited and occur only in small sections of the project area. Aspect varies throughout.

Mapped soil types include Diablo clay (2-9%, 9-15%, and 15-30% slopes), Diablo clay, eroded (15-30% slopes), Goulding clay loam (5-15% slopes), Goulding cobbly clay loam (5-15%, 15-30%, 30-50%, and 50-75% slopes), Haire clay loam (9-15% slopes), Raynor clay, seeped (2-15% slopes), and Sobrante loam (30-50% slopes). These soils are generally used for rangeland, forestry, grazing, and pasture.

Three tributaries to the Petaluma River occur within the project area. Lichau and Carriger Creeks enter and exit the northern portion of the project area. Lynch Creek enters the upper third of the project area from the east and flows southwest, roughly parallel to the project corridor, before crossing into the project area again in the southern portion.

Operational limitations for watercourses and wetlands will include establishment of a no-operation buffer. No vegetation removal or ground disturbance will occur within these buffers without clearance from a qualified Registered Professional Forester or qualified biologist confirming the absence of species listed under the Federal or State Endangered Species Act.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sonoma Resource Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Marshall Turbeville, Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15303 Minor Alteration to Land
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

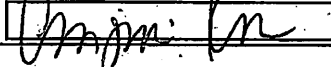
The project is exempt because the planned activities meet the definition of "forestry" in PRC§753, and have been reviewed and approved by a Registered Professional Forester in consultation with experts from other pertinent fields who have attested that the activities proposed in this project will only have the potential for at most impacts that are less than significant to the environment, having provided adequate measures for avoidance of sensitive environmental resources. Project activities will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees, and will not result in a substantial alteration of the current function of the land. Project specific analysis is on file at the RCD.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Jason Wells, RPF #3014 _____ Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 707-569-1448 x107

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature:  Date: 03/10/2026 Title: Executive Director

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. _____ Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108; 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.