

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

To: ☒ Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
PO Box 0334
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ Napa County Clerk
1127 1ST Street
Suite A
Napa, CA 94559

PROJECT TITLE: Porteous - Knoxville Road Landslide Repair Grading Permit

PROJECT NUMBER: ENG26-00034

PROJECT LOCATION - SPECIFIC: The slide is located on a private property located off of Berryessa Knoxville Road at 1705/1710 Berryessa Knoxville Road (APN: 019-180-019-000). The project is located approximately 0.2 miles southwest of the intersection of Berryessa Knoxville Road and Spanish Flat Resort Road. The project site and project area does not span any mapped blue lines streams or ephemerals, and no work is proposed to occur within stream or ephemeral setbacks. The study area is in Township 8 North, Range 3 West, Section 20, which occurs on the 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Sonoma quadrangle. The corresponding latitude and longitude at the approximate center of the study area is 38 31 16.896 north, -122 13 4.037 west.

PROJECT LOCATION – CITY (NEAREST): Saint Helena

PROJECT LOCATION - COUNTY: Napa

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: A portion of the hillside along the existing driveway access to 1705/1710 Berryessa Knoxville Road slid in 2025-2026, as a result of winter storms. This resulted in a landslide that is approximately 120 feet wide from north to south and about 240 feet in length from west to east. The slide extends from the upper driveway down to the lower driveway entrance. The proposed repair for the slide includes the removal of the slide debris and construction of an earthfill buttress with subsurface drainage improvements to restore long-term stability to the hillside and driveway and ensure continued access to the existing residences.

The landslide will be repaired by over-excavation of the slide debris, excavating a toe keyway and benches into the underlying competent materials and bedrock, placing subdrainage, and reconstructing the slope using the excavated material in a well compacted engineered fill buttress and installation of surface and subsurface drainage improvements to restore the area. A Geotechnical Report prepared by KC Engineering determined that the landslide is a result of hillside saturation from winter storms combined with relatively weak clayey soils; the presence of previously existing older dormant landslide was also identified as a contributing factor to the relatively weak and low-strength soil conditions. After completion of work the disturbed area will be hydro seeded with an erosion control seed mix. Best Management Practices and erosion control measures in conformance with Napa County standards will be implemented during project

implementation.

LEAD AGENCY: County of Napa, Planning, Building and Environmental Services Department (PBES)

ADDRESS: Suite 210, 1195 Third Street Napa, Ca **PHONE:** (707) 253-4437

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Napa, PBES

ADDRESS: Suite 210, 1195 Third Street Napa, Ca **PHONE:** (707) 253-4437

APPLICANT/AGENCY CARRYING OUT PROJECT: Gregson and Lynette Porteous

ADDRESS: 70 Marietta Drive, San Francisco, Ca, 94127 **PHONE:** (415) 940-5272

EXEMPT STATUS (CHECK ONE):

- ☐ 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 California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (CEQAG) section number: **Section 15301 Class 1-Existing Facilities and Section 15302 Class 2 – Replacement or Reconstruction**
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Pursuant to CEQA Section 15300, the proposed project would be considered Categorically Exempt based on at least one Exemption Class. The project site is not recognized as an important wildlife corridor by any regional or state agency or jurisdiction and is not considered critical to the ecological functioning of adjoining open space areas. The project site is not listed on any hazardous waste sites enumerated under Government Code Section 65962.5. As a result, there is no reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.

The proposed improvements would be considered Categorically Exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15301 Class 1-Existing Facilities, which includes the operation and repair of existing public or private structures or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing of former use. The proposed improvements would also be considered Categorically Exempt pursuant to Section 15302, Class 2-Replacement or Reconstruction, which consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. A key consideration in the appropriateness of using these Categorical Exemptions is whether the project would be located on the same site have substantially the same purpose and involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. Implementation of the proposed project would involve no expansion of existing or former use of the road, and would simply restore the use of the existing road and provide erosion control measures on the hillside above. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in significant impacts based on location and would not impact an environmental resource or any designated environmental resource of critical concern. The project area is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 or within a state scenic highway. Implementation of the proposed project would not affect scenic resources, historical buildings, rock outcroppings, or result in a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. Therefore, it has been determined that the proposed project qualifies for a Class 1 and Class 2 Categorical Exemption and has no reasonable possibility of having a significant effect on the environment.

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: Dana Morrison, Supervising Planner, County of Napa 1995 Third Street Napa, Ca
PHONE: (707) 253-4437

IF FILED BY APPLICANT:

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

Signature: 

Title: Supervising Planner

Date: 8/18/2026

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

☐ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at LCI: 8/19/2026