Print Form

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
585 Fiscal Dr #103F
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

From: (Public Agency): County of Sonoma
400 Aviation Blvd, Suite 100
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(Address)

Project Title: Guerneville Welcome Garden

Project Applicant: County of Sonoma

Project Location - Specific:
State Route 116 at River Road

Project Location - City: Unincorporated area Project Location - County: Sonoma

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Project proposes installation of the Guerneville Welcome Garden within the State Route 116 (SR-116) right-of-way near River Road in Guerneville. The Project would install native and climate-appropriate landscaping within an existing roadside planting area behind the sidewalk and adjacent to an existing retaining wall. Work includes planting, soil preparation and conditioning, and temporary irrigation for plant establishment. Planting excavation would be limited to a maximum depth of 6 inches below existing grade. The Project would not widen the roadway, increase roadway capacity, modify the existing retaining wall, or remove healthy, mature, scenic trees. The Project is located within Caltrans right-of-way and will require a Caltrans encroachment permit.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Sonoma

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: County of Sonoma

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: Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land (CEQA Guidelines §15304(b))
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:
This project meets the criteria for a Class 4 Categorical Exemption from CEQA under Section 15304 of the CEQA Guidelines, specifically Section 15304(b), New Gardening or Landscaping. The Project consists of minor alterations to land and vegetation for installation of new landscaping within an existing developed roadside area. Ground disturbance would be limited to shallow planting excavation not exceeding 6 inches below existing grade, and no healthy, mature, scenic trees would be removed. Although the Project is located along an officially designated State Scenic Highway, the Project would not damage scenic resources, including trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources within the scenic highway corridor. The exceptions to the use of a categorical exemption identified in Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines have been considered and do not apply to the Project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Stevan Hunter Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (707) 565-4927

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: Stevan Hunter Date: 10/07/2026 Title: Engineering Division Manager

- Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife

2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/26) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER: 49-10082026-354

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER *(If applicable)*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE
COUNTY OF SONOMA		10/08/2026

COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING	DOCUMENT NUMBER
SONOMA	26-1008-01

PROJECT TITLE

GUERNEVILLE WELCOME GARDEN

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
SONOMA COUNTY PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE		(707) 565-4927

PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
400 AVIATION BLVD	SANTA ROSA	CA	95403

PROJECT APPLICANT *(Check appropriate box)*

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

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	$4,227.50	$
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	$3,043.75	$
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	$1,437.25	$

☒ 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	Ashley Corbin, Deputy County Clerk-Recorder

Sonoma County Public Infrastructure
Johannes J. Hoevertsz, Director
Monique Chapman, Deputy Director – Transportation & Operations
Vanessa Garrett, Deputy Director – Engineering & Maintenance
Michelle Ling, Deputy Director – Facilities Development & Management

400 AVIATION BLVD, SUITE 100, SANTA ROSA, CA 95403 ❖ PH: 707.565.2550 ❖ FAX: 707.565.3240

NOTICE OF CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION

Sonoma County proposes to carry out the following project. Pursuant to Section 23A-11 of the Sonoma County Code, it has been determined that this project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

Project Title: Guerneville Welcome Garden

Lead Agency / County Agency of Filing: County of Sonoma

Project Proponent (Applicant): Sonoma County Public Infrastructure

Applicant Address: 400 Aviation Blvd, Suite 100 Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Project Location: State Route 116 at River Road

Date of Approval: October 7, 2026

Exemption Filed With: Sonoma County Clerk

Deva Marie Proto, County Clerk
BY: _____
Ashley Corbin, Deputy Clerk

This notice was posted on 10/08/2026 and will remain posted for a period of thirty days through 11/08/2026

Doc No.49-10082026-354

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Project proposes installation of the Guerneville Welcome Garden within the State Route 116 (SR-116) right-of-way near River Road in Guerneville. The Project would install native and climate-appropriate landscaping within an existing roadside planting area behind the sidewalk and adjacent to an existing retaining wall. Work includes planting, soil preparation and conditioning, and temporary irrigation for plant establishment. Planting excavation would be limited to a maximum depth of 6 inches below existing grade. The Project would not widen the roadway, increase roadway capacity, modify the existing retaining wall, or remove healthy, mature, scenic trees. The Project is located within Caltrans right-of-way and will require a Caltrans encroachment permit.

REASON WHY THIS PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

This project meets the criteria for a Class 4 Categorical Exemption from CEQA under Section 15304 of the CEQA Guidelines, specifically Section 15304(b), New Gardening or Landscaping. The Project consists of minor alterations to land and vegetation for installation of new landscaping within an existing developed roadside area. Ground disturbance would be limited to shallow planting excavation not exceeding 6 inches below existing grade, and no healthy, mature, scenic trees would be removed. Although the Project is located along an officially designated State Scenic Highway, the Project consists of new landscaping and would not damage scenic resources

within the scenic highway corridor. The exceptions to the use of a categorical exemption identified in Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines have been considered and do not apply to the Project.

Project is categorically exempt per the following:

1) State of California CEQA Guidelines, Section 15304 (b)
   § 15304 – (Class 4) Minor Alterations to Land; subsection (b), New Gardening or Landscaping

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This Notice of Exemption is filed pursuant to the provisions of Section 15062 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Project Proponent:

Stevan Hunter

Stevan Hunter

Engineering Division Manager

Sonoma County Public Infrastructure

(707) 565-4927