This notice was posted on 10/09/2026
and will remain posted for a period of thirty days
through 11/09/2026

Doc No.49-10092026-363

Deva Marie Proto, County Clerk
BY: _____
Emily Niedecker-Walski, Deputy Clerk

CITY OF SONOMA

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk
County of Sonoma
585 Fiscal Drive #103
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

From: Planning Division
City of Sonoma
No. 1 The Plaza
Sonoma, CA 95476

Project Title: Municipal Code Amendments – Art Requirement

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: Ordinance repealing and replacing SMC Chapter 19.51 Public Art Program and adding Chapter 3.45 Public Art Fund to the Sonoma Municipal Code requires public works projects and new construction, remodeling, repair or reconstruction of commercial and/or multi-family (five units or more) development projects with a building permit valuation of more than $250,000 install art equal to one percent of the project's total valuation, or pay an in-lieu fee equal to that amount. It also establishes a Public Art Fund, the annual City allocation of one quarter of one percent of the City's general fund expenditure budget, capped at $25,000 per year, unless waived by the Council.

Lead Agency: City of Sonoma, Community Development Department

Applicant: City of Sonoma, No 1 The Plaza, Sonoma, CA 95476

Exemption Status:

☐Ministerial (Section 21080(b)(l); 15268)
☐Declared Emergency (Section 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (Section 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))
☐ Statutory Exemption:
☒ Categorical Exemption: Section 15061(b)(3)

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: City has determined that the adoption and implementation of the ordinance is exempt from further environmental review under the general rule in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) that CEQA only applies to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. As the project is modifying the requirement for public art, allowing an in-lieu fee to be paid and reestablishing a public art fund without any physical project being approved, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the ordinance will have a significant effect on the environment. Furthermore, this ordinance will not cause a direct or indirect physical change to the environment and is therefore not a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.

Lead Agency Contact Person/Project Planner: Jennifer Gates, Community Development Director
Phone: (707) 933-2201
Email: jgates@sonomacity.org

Signature: _____ Title: Community Development Director

Date: 10/9/2024