



NOTICE OF CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION

Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department

2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 565-1900 Fax (707) 565-1103

Sonoma County proposes to carry out the following project. Pursuant to Section 23A 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: Zoning Code Reformatting; ORD17-0002	To: County Clerk- Recorder Office	Office of Planning and Research
Public Agency: Sonoma County	County of Sonoma	P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Project Applicant: County	585 Fiscal Drive, Room 103	Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Applicant Address: 2550 Ventura Ave., Santa Rosa CA 95403		Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Project Location: County Wide		
Date of Approval: Feb 9, 2021		

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE AND BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROJECT:

With the assistance of a code consultant, Permit Sonoma staff prepared draft municipal code articles that reformat and reorganize the land use and development standards in the Zoning Code to create a user-friendly format. No substantive changes were made to existing policy or regulations with the exception of updates necessary to maintain consistency with state law. On February 9, 2021, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance amending Sonoma County Code Chapter 26 (Zoning Regulations) to reformat, reorganize, consolidate and delete redundancies and make limited additional text amendment to clarify existing policy and as necessary for conformity with state law.

EXEMPT STATUS:

Adoption of the Ordinance is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3).

REASON WHY THIS PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

Adoption of the Ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the "common sense exemption" of CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3). The common sense exemption provides that where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. The proposed amendments to Chapter 26 Zoning Regulations are limited to changes in formatting, organization, numbering, and consolidation of redundant and outdated text. The Ordinance would not change the substance of land use and development requirements from what is currently provided under the General Plan, Zoning Regulations, related permits or guidelines, and controlling state law. With respect to the amendments needed for state law conformity, those amendments are narrowly drafted to ensure conformity with state law that is in effect and overrides conflicting local ordinance. Accordingly, because it may be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment, adoption of the Ordinance is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3). Alternatively and for the foregoing reasons, adoption of the Ordinance is not a project subject to CEQA in the first instance, because the action has no potential for causing either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. (CEQA Guidelines section 15378(a).)

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

Lead Agency Contact Person:

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Doug Bush (Feb 25, 2021 10:35 PST)

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