



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: County Clerk
County of San Mateo

From: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
5050 El Camino Real
Los Altos, CA 94022

Project Title: Red Barn Reroof Project
Project Location: 12049 La Honda Road (Highway 84) at La Honda Creek Open Preserve

City: N/A **County:** San Mateo

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Same

Description of Project: The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) proposes to reroof the historic Red Barn (project) located in La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (Preserve). The project would remove the existing Red Barn roof and replace with a Class A rated mineral roll roofing under replacement cedar wood shingles to match the existing shingles. No other alterations or modifications to the Red Barn are proposed.

Historic Resources: An evaluation of the Red Barn prepared by LSA Associates, Inc. in 2016 concluded that the Red Barn is a historic resource eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources. LSA Associates, Inc. subsequently prepared a Project Impact Analysis for the Red Barn Reroof project, which concluded that the project would be compliant with the Secretary of Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* and would not result in an adverse change to the Red Barn.

Biological Resources: Bat surveys conducted in 2017 detected the occurrence of several special status bat species in the project area (including Townsend's Big eared bat [*Corynorhinus townsendii*] and western red bat [*Lasiurus blossevillii*]) and described the Red Barn as a maternity roost for pallid bats (*Antrozous pallidus*), which is a California species of special concern. The project will be conducted outside the maternity season for roosting bats (generally March 1 – September 15). In addition, the District will conduct bat surveys prior to initiating the project. If bats are detected, the District will maintain 60-foot buffers for low noise-producing activities and 75-foot buffers for high-noise producing activities until individual bats disperse.

Barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) nests have been observed on the exterior of the Red Barn, and barn owl (*Tyto alba*) have been observed nesting within the structure. The proposed period of work will occur outside the nesting season, and the District will survey the barn for nests before work begins to confirm that they are unoccupied to avoid any potential impacts to the swallows.

Staff and contractors working on the project will receive biological awareness training that will include descriptions of special status species wildlife that may occur in the project area, their legal status, and appropriate avoidance measures.

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption Sections 15301 and 15331


Reasons Why Project is Exempt: In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines, the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the following sections:

Section 15301 – Existing Facilities. Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The project entails replacement of roofing materials and repairs to an existing structure with no expansion of use.

Section 15331 – Historical Resource Restoration/Rehabilitation. Class 31 consists of projects limited to maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, conservation, or reconstruction of historical resources in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards. The project entails maintenance and repair of a historic resource in a manner consistent with the Secretary of Interior’s Standards.

Furthermore, none of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions identified under CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply to the proposed project.

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