

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:** Department of General Services  
707 3rd Street  
West Sacramento, CA 95605

**Project Title:** Sonoma Developmental Center Memorial  
**Project Location – Specific:** Sonoma Developmental Center  
**Project Location – City:** Eldridge  
**Project Location – County:** Sonoma

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**

DGS, in partnership with DDS and DSH, seeks to increase access to the cemetery located at the former Sonoma Developmental Center by creating an interpretive memorial, overlook, and accessible parking. The project would construct a fully accessible van parking stall and concrete sidewalk on the north side of Orchard Road leading to a new observation deck overlooking the cemetery on the south side of Orchard Road. The parking area sidewalk would be bordered with informal marble memorials on reinforced concrete pedestals which will incorporate interpretive photographs of the site. A crosswalk would be installed across Orchard Road, leading to the overlook. The overlook would be an elevated concrete retaining wall structure fitted with guardrails that incorporate granite slabs depicting the names of all the individuals buried in the cemetery.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Department of General Services

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Gerald McLaughlin, DGS-RES-D-AMB, (916)375-4009

**Exempt Status:**

Categorical Exemption §15301 Existing Facilities

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:**

This project is located within an existing facility and is considered a minor alteration to restore a sense of purpose and place to the historic cemetery. The perimeter of the work area adjacent to the cemetery will be scanned with ground penetrating radar to ensure it is clear of underground anomalies prior to work. The cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) as a contributor to the Sonoma State Home Historic District; however, the work will occur primarily outside of the boundaries of the resource. Great care has been given in the design of this project to preserve character defining features of the cemetery and the historic district and to protect the remaining integrity of the cemetery. A review of the project plans by a qualified Preservation Architect has determined that this project meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and will not create an adverse effect on the resource. The State has confirmed no other exceptions to the exemptions apply.

**Contact Person:** Jim Martone, Branch Chief, Asset Management Branch, DGS-RES-D

**Telephone Number:** (916) 376-1816

**Signature:**

**Date Signed by Lead Agency**