



Notice of Categorical Exemption

To: County Clerk Recorder
County of Santa Clara
70 West Hedding Street
San Jose, CA 95110

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

Project Title: Proposed Purchase of Property as an addition to Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

Project Location: Assessor's Parcel Number 562-08-001 and 562-04-011

City: Unincorporated area

County: Santa Clara

Description of Project: The project consists of the purchase of an approximately 102.3-acre property as an addition to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (District) Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve and concurrent adoption of a Preliminary Use and Management Plan (PUMP) for the property, including maintaining existing dirt roads and protecting the creeks on the Property. Minor resource management activities may be conducted to control invasive plants and implement defensible space. The land would be permanently preserved as open space and maintained in a natural condition.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Same as above

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemptions

Section 15301 – Repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing facilities

Section 15316 - Transfer of Ownership of Land in Order to Create Parks

Section 15325 - Transfer of Ownership of Interest in land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

Section 15301 exempts the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The PUMP will maintain the Property as status quo with no expansion or changes to its existing uses. The PUMP includes minor erosion control work as necessary, wildland fuel management, and minor natural resource management activities, covered under the District's adopted Resource Management Policies, Integrated Pest Management Program Guidance Manual, Wildland Fire Resiliency Program, the mitigation measures adopted pursuant to Final Environmental Impact Reports of the cited plans and policies, and the District's Open Space Maintenance and Restoration Program and Mitigated Negative Declaration, and regulatory permits as applicable.

Section 15316 exempts the acquisition of land to create parks if the land is in a natural condition and the management plan proposes to keep the area in a natural condition. The PUMP specifies that the land will remain in a natural condition and will be designated as an addition to the District's Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve.

Section 15325 exempts transfer of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space. This acquisition will transfer fee ownership of the Property to the District and ensure that the open space will be preserved. The Property will be preserved as open space by incorporating it into the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

Aaron Peth, Real Property Planner III
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Telephone: (650) 691-1200

Attachments: Location Map

Signature: *Aaron Peth*
Aaron Peth, Real Property Planner III

Date: 11/15/2022