NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: ☒ Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

☒ County Clerk
County of Marin
3501 Civic Center Drive, #234
San Rafael, CA 94903

FROM: Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Blvd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Project Title: Lease Agreement with County of Marin for Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information System Weather Radar Station at the County of Marin's Mountain King Road property

Project Location- Specific: The project site is located on the County of Marin's property in the Barnabe Mountain (APN 168-240-01) on Mountain King Road, Lagunitas, Marin County, California (Figure 1).

Project Location – City: Unincorporated Community of Lagunitas

Project Location – County: Marin

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) is engaged in implementation of the San Francisco Bay Area Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information System Project (AQPI Project). The purpose of the AQPI Project is to provide more precise rainfall forecasting for atmospheric rivers, which will give flood control managers, including Sonoma Water, emergency responders, transportation officials, and media outlets more precise information on the location, timing, and intensity of expected rainfall. Marin County's communication site within Mount Barnabe in Marin County has been identified as a suitable site with existing infrastructure for the placement of a C-Band weather radar station. The County of Marin has agreed to lease the location for a ten-year term to construct, install, operate, and maintain, weather radar station equipment and appurtenances.

The Project includes installation, operation, and maintenance of a weather radar system spherical cover on top of a seatainer (radar shelter/cargo container). The seatainer would be installed on a concrete pad for stability and would house the weather radar's data processing and server equipment. The weather radar system would require electrical system connection to an existing power source. For power outages, a standby generator system and a propane fuel above ground storage tank would be installed on the concrete pad. A chain link fence would be installed around the Project. The project construction activities would include minor grading to construct the concrete pad and minor trenching to install conduits to run electrical and internet connections to the project components.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sonoma County Water Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sonoma County Water Agency

Exempt Status (check one):

☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec.21080 (b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: CEQA Guidelines Sections: 15303(d), New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures; and 15304(a)(f), Minor Alterations to Land
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State Code number:

Reasons why project is exempt: Because entering into a lease agreement to allow the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a weather radar station and appurtenances would result in grading, minor trenching and backfilling within previously disturbed areas where surfaces would be restored and does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. In addition, the project would not impact a scenic or historical resource or degrade the quality of the environment and would not result in any significant or cumulative adverse effect upon the environment.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Yvette O'Keefe   **Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (707) 547-1943

_____ General Manager   4.4.23
Signature   *Title*   *Date*

☒ Signed by Lead Agency
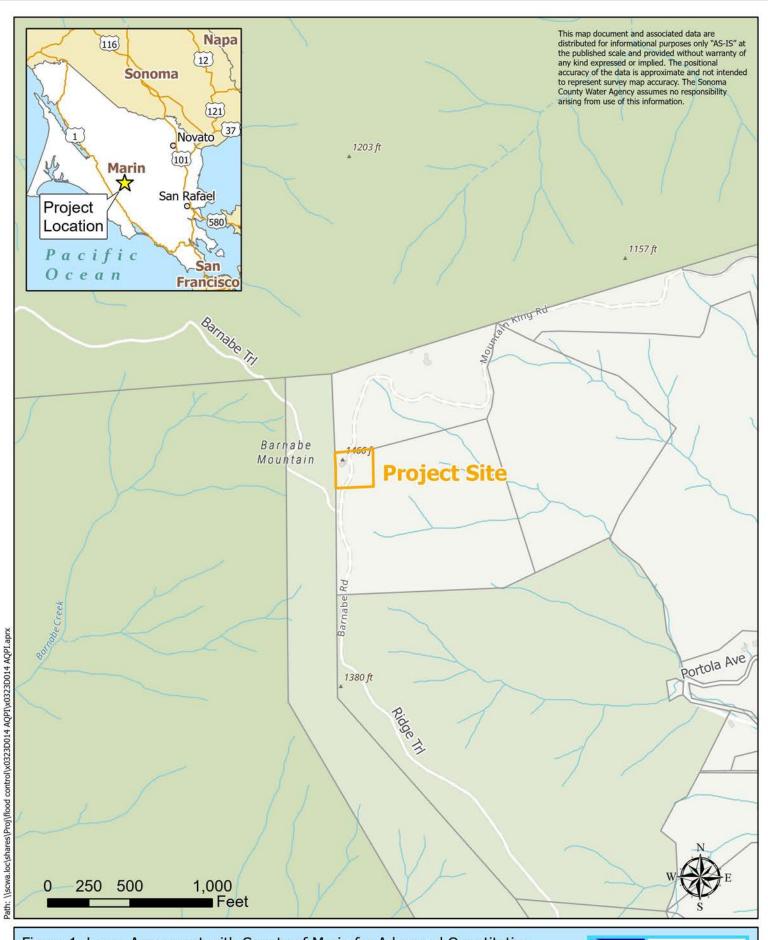☐ Signed by Applicant   Date received for filing at OPR:_____

Figure 1. Lease Agreement with County of Marin for Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information System Weather Radar Station at the County of Marin's Mountain King Road Property