



## 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 562-09-021

**City:** Unincorporated area

**County:** Santa Clara

**Description of Project:** The project consists of the purchase of an approximately 40.83-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 minor erosion control and sediment control measures conducted to prevent erosion. Minor resource management activities may be conducted to control invasive plants. 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 operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond the existing uses. 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 in order 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 transfers of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space. This acquisition will transfer fee ownership of the property to the District to be preserved as open space and incorporate 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: 9/1/2023