



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

PROJECT TITLE: Dogbane Preserve Ecological Enhancement and Fuel Reduction

PROJECT LOCATION: APN 058-040-051, 4219 Alba Lane, Santa Rosa, CA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Dogbane Preserve occupies 3 acres and is dedicated to the protection of a high-quality stand of dogbane, a plant used by Indigenous people for cordage. Most of the Preserve is undeveloped oak woodland with an understory composed of dogbane, Baccharis, and other shrubs and forbs. Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (Ag + Open Space) is planning to burn existing piles of previously thinned vegetation, including shrubs and trees, that were damaged or killed by previous wildfire to promote the health of dogbane and for fuel reduction. Ag + Open Space will conduct associated minor vegetation clearing using hand tools. A vehicle with a water tank will be staged on the grasslands near the Preserve entrance for back-up water supply.

PUBLIC AGENCY Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
APPROVING PROJECT: 747 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 100
Santa Rosa, CA 95401-4850

PUBLIC AGENCY CONTACT: Leslie Lew, Natural Resources Specialist, (707) 565-7367

EXEMPT STATUS:

- Ministerial** (Section 21080(b)(1); Section 15268)
- Declared Emergency** (Section 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project** (Section 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))
- Categorical Exemption** Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land)
- Statutory Exemption**

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

The project falls under Categorical Exemption Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15304). This exemption applies to projects that are minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project entails minor alteration of vegetation on public land owned by the Ag + Open Space to promote the health of dogbane and for wildfire fuel reduction through burning existing piles consisting of previously thinned vegetation and minor vegetation clearing using hand tools. Field review by Ag and Open Space staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The project will not result in the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees and will not result in cumulative impacts or significant effects to scenic or historical resources. The project area is not located on a site that is included on the lists compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code or within any wetland, officially designated scenic area, or officially mapped area of severe geologic hazard.

THIS NOTICE OF EXEMPTION IS BEING FILED BY THE PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT.

Amy Ricard

Amy Ricard, Community Resources Manager for
Misti Arias, General Manager
Ag + Open Space