

RETURN TO:  
City of Cotati  
Community Development Department  
Planning Division  
201 West Sierra Ave.  
Cotati, CA 94931



## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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TO: Sonoma County Clerk  
585 Fiscal Drive, Room 103  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

TO: Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**Project Title:** Putnam Park Improvements

**Project Applicant:** City of Cotati Public Works Department, 201 W. Sierra Avenue, Cotati, CA 94931

**Project Location:** Helen Putnam Park is located at 55 Myrtle Avenue and consists of two parcels (144-410-031 & 046-201-010) totaling 8.8 acres (4.8 acres + 4 acres) in south-east Cotati.

**Project Description:** Project proposes to update and renovate an existing 8.8-acre park in south-east Cotati. The project scope includes adding a new fenced dog park, constructing a new paved group picnic area, adding a new (approximately) 300 square foot concession building to serve the existing ball fields, and constructing hardscaped seating areas, pedestrian walkways and ADA compliant pedestrian paths throughout the site, including around the perimeter of the park. These paths are proposed to be constructed of a combination of concrete and “granitecrete” paving and will be served by park amenities such as exercise equipment, stone seat walls and trash receptacles. The existing restroom structure is being demolished and replaced with a new four-stall restroom building in the same location and will utilize the existing utility service connections in this location. One on-site tree located in the south-west quadrant of the park is proposed to be removed, with all remaining trees proposed to be protected during construction activities. Existing lawn and landscaping are proposed to be replaced with new turf and plantings. All existing irrigation is being removed and replaced but will continue to be served by the existing 6” water line serving the property from the city water main. New parking lot lighting and pedestrian bollard lights are proposed to serve the updated facilities.

The project design plans anticipate a three-phased construction schedule however this analysis covers all phases currently designed. All construction activities are proposed in previously disturbed areas which are currently being utilized as active park facilities. All existing drainage features are being preserved in place and no improvements or modifications to these areas are proposed as a part of the project scope. No work is proposed in any riparian areas.

A future pedestrian bridge crossing the Laguna de Santa Rosa and connecting into the bicycle and pedestrian network to the north has been contemplated but is not included in the Putnam Park Improvements project design. These improvements remain unfunded and their timing and ultimate construction is uncertain. Therefore, construction of this feature is not included in the scope of this analysis.



**EXEMPT STATUS:** General Plan Consistency Exemption {Sec.15183}

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The Project implements the General Plan and is consistent with the existing recreation facilities established by existing land use regulation, adopted Public Works Development Standards and general plan policies for which an EIR was certified. The analysis relies upon the program level analysis prepared for the 2015 City of Cotati General Plan and its EIR (SCH No. 2013082037), which was certified in 2015. The project is a maintenance effort to ensure the on-going provision of parkland projected to be available to Cotati residents under the General Plan and analyzed in the General Plan EIR. The project would not result in substantial changes nor does it involve new information that would warrant further environmental review because the level of improvements proposed are primarily maintenance and the construction of limited new features at an existing park and within the development assumptions analyzed in the program level EIR for the General Plan. Furthermore, the project does not contain elements that are peculiar to the project or project site(s) that would result in new or more severe environmental impacts relative to the General Plan EIR. Lastly, all adopted mitigating General Plan policies and mitigation measures identified in the 2015 General Plan EIR that apply to the Project are imposed as environmental conditions of approval. With implementation of identified conditions of approval and uniformly applied development standards, the project would not result in a substantial increase in the severity or significant impacts that were previously identified in the program level EIR, nor would the project introduce any new significant impacts that were not previously identified. There would be no additional environmental impacts beyond those

analyzed in the General Plan EIR, and therefore the project is exempt pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21083.3 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.

**Lead Agency:** City of Cotati, 201 West Sierra Ave. Cotati, CA 94931 (City Council approved the Project on 2.27.24)

**Department/Contact Person:** Noah Housh, Community Development Director **Phone:** (707) 665-3635

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Noah Housh, Community Development Director

August 21, 2024  
Date