



**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION  
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Oken Property Vegetation Maintenance

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The project is located within Coleman Creek, northeast of Gladstone Way in Rohnert Park’s “G” Section and southwest of Petaluma Hill Road. APN 045-171-037 and 045-171-026. Please see attached map.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** In 1996, Gladstone Way residences experienced property damage from flooding events associated with Coleman Creek. The purpose of the proposed project is to clear vegetation that may be obstructing appropriate storm flow passage within Coleman Creek, and to support habitat restoration efforts within the riparian corridor. The work would involve thinning and trimming densely overgrown native willow and non-native Himalayan blackberry along a 100-foot section of the Coleman Creek stream channel while maintaining existing shade canopy (Project Site 1). Additional work involves clearing Himalayan blackberry that threatens to obstruct storm flow passage into a nearby culvert (Project Site 2). Selective thinning techniques would be used in limbing up mature trees, removing down-ward growing branches and dead vegetation debris to create a “tunnel effect” for storm flow passage. Himalayan blackberry canes would be cut at just above ground level and removed from the stream channel. Best management practices would be employed to ensure that there are no impacts resulting in soil disturbance or tree mortality.

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

**PUBLIC AGENCY CONTACT:** Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Manager, (707) 565-7358


**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** pursuant to Section 15304 (Minor Alternations to Land)
- Statutory Exemption**

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:**

The project is exempt pursuant to Section 15304 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations because the project consists of minor alterations to vegetation growing within Coleman Creek which will result in improvement of storm flow passage. The project will not result in the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. The project will not result in an expansion of existing use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency’s determination.

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

  
Julie Mefferd (Sep 13, 2024 13:07 PDT)  
 Julie Mefferd for Misti Arias,  
 General Manager  
 Ag + Open Space






# Oken\_2024 Vegetation Maintenance\_NOE (1)

Final Audit Report

2024-09-13

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