



**AG + OPEN SPACE**  
SONOMA COUNTY

## **NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Monte Rio Redwoods Expansion Conservation Easement

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The project is located south of the community of Monte Rio in Sonoma County, California. Assessor Parcel Numbers: 097-290-001, 097-290-002, 097-290-003, 097-290-004, 097-290-005, 097-290-006, and 097-290-007. There is no physical address associated with the project.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Purchase of a conservation easement over 1,517 acres by the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District to preserve the open space, natural resource, and recreational and educational values of the property.

**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:** Olivia Fiori (707) 565-7349  
Acquisition Specialist

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

- ☐ **Ministerial** (Section 15073)
- ☐ **Declared Emergency** (Section 15071(a))
- ☐ **Emergency Project** (Section 15071(b) & (c))
- ☒ **Categorical Exemption** pursuant to Section(s) 15378 & 15317, title 14, of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- ☒ **Statutory Exemption** pursuant to Section 21080.28 of the Public Resources Code.

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** The acquisition of this Conservation Easement is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Sections 21000 and following) pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.28(a)(1)(A) & (C) and Cal. Code of Regs. Tit. 14, § 15325(a) & (b)), which exempts from CEQA the acquisition, sale, or other transfer of interest in land by a public agency for the preservation of natural conditions existing at the time of acquisition, including plant and animal habitats, and for continuing agricultural use of the land. This project is also exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15317 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, because the purpose of the acquisition is to maintain the open space character of the area.

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

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Misti C. Arias, General Manager  
Ag + Open Space