

SONOMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING AND PRE-ADOPTION SUMMARY FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SONOMA COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 26 (ZONING) TO ESTABLISH STREAMLINED PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF FENCES

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing to consider the project described below.

HEARING DATE & TIME: Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at or after 1:35 PM

HEARING LOCATION: Board of Supervisors Chambers, Room 102-A, Sonoma County Administration Building, 575 Administration Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

PROJECT: Fence Ordinance Update, Permit Sonoma File No. ORD25-0006

PROJECT LOCATION: Countywide (unincorporated areas, outside the Coastal Zone)

PROJECT ACTIONS: The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing to consider a proposed ordinance amending Sonoma County Code Chapter 26 (Zoning Regulations) to establish streamlined permitting requirements and development standards for fences located within residential zoning districts (AR, RR, R1, R2, and R3) and the Recreation and Visitor-Serving (K) district, that meet standards for location, height, materials, and design, and exempt certain types of agricultural fences from existing design review requirements.

PRE-ADOPTION SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE:

The proposed ordinance would amend the text of Sonoma County Code Chapter 26 (Zoning Code) as follows:

- Amend Article 04 (Glossary) to establish definitions for agricultural fences, fences, and retaining walls;
- Amend Article 64 (Scenic Resources Combining District) to exempt agricultural fences that meet certain development standards in the AR, LEA, LIA, DA, and RRD zoning districts from existing design review requirements; and
- Amend Article 88 (General Exceptions and Special Use Standards) to establish development standards and updated permitting requirements for fences in the AR, RR, R1, R2, R3, and K zoning districts based on location, height, material, and design.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION: The Planning Commission heard the item on November 6, 2025, and passed a resolution recommending that the Board of Supervisors amend Sonoma County Code Chapter 26 (Zoning Regulations) to establish streamlined permitting requirements and development standards for certain types of fences, with modifications to staff's recommendation.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: Permit Sonoma has determined that the proposed amendments to Sonoma County Code are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) (the common sense exemption) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment, and CEQA Guidelines Section 15303(e), which provides for the new construction of small accessory structures such as fences.

GETTING INVOLVED:

Project materials are or will be available online at: <https://sonoma-county.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>; at Permit Sonoma, 2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa CA 95403 during business hours; and digitally through the project planner.

Public comment prior to the Board meeting: You may submit an emailed public comment to the project planner, identifying the specific item and agenda number on which you are commenting. The Project Planner is Azine Spalding at Azine.Spalding@sonomacounty.gov or (707) 565-2541. Written comments can also be mailed to Permit Sonoma Attn: Azine Spalding, 2550 Ventura Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. All comments submitted to the Project Planner in advance of the hearing will be provided to the Board of Supervisors.

Public comment during the Board meeting: Members of the public who join the meeting, in person in the Board Chambers, will have an opportunity to provide live comments during the hearing. Please refer to the meeting agenda for instructions on how to join the meeting. The agenda will be posted in advance of the meeting date on the Board of Supervisors website: <https://sonoma-county.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Board at (707) 565-2241 or bos@sonomacounty.gov at least 72 hours before the meeting. To request an accommodation for review of the file, please contact the project planner.

If you challenge the decision on this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, directly or via Permit Sonoma, at, or prior to, the public hearing.

DATE: December 5, 2025, Press Democrat