

# **ORDINANCE NO. ()**

## **AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SONOMA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AMENDING CHAPTERS 26, 30, 40A, AND 40D THE SONOMA COUNTY CODE TO IMPLEMENT SUBPROGRAM 15G OF THE ADOPTED HOUSING ELEMENT AND COMPLY WITH THE STATE EMPLOYEE HOUSING ACT**

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The Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California, ordains as follows:

### **SECTION I. Purpose and Findings.**

- A. The agricultural sector in Sonoma County is fundamental to the County's economic prosperity, and the County Code contains longstanding provisions supporting housing for farmworkers. The rising costs of land and housing pose significant challenges to the ongoing viability of agricultural activity. Sonoma County recognizes the importance of farmworkers to the economy, and the housing of farmworkers is integral to the state and local mandates to affirmatively further fair housing.
- B. On August 22, 2023 the Board of Supervisors adopted the 2023-2031 Housing Element Update, including numerous implementation actions in the Housing Action Plan. The Ordinance is necessary to implement the programs of the Housing Element and ensure that the County maintains consistency with state housing and land use laws.
- C. The Ordinance implements the Housing Element Subprogram 15g purpose of reducing thresholds for agricultural employee housing. The amendments are consistent and compatible with the overall goals and intent of the General Plan. The amendments are consistent with policies of the Agricultural Resources Element that support and encourage agricultural diversification, and farmworker housing development. The revisions are consistent with the Land Use Element policies that support housing development for farm employees.
- D. On July 10, 2025, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing to consider and make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding this Ordinance and received and considered all public comments. The Planning Commission continued the July 10, 2024 public hearing to July 31, 2025, during which the Planning Commission approved the resolution to recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt the proposed amendments to the County Code.
- E. On October 7, 2025, the Board of Supervisors held a duly noticed public hearing on this Ordinance and received and considered all public comments.

- F. The Ordinance is necessary to implement the programs of the Sonoma County Housing Element and ensure that the County maintains consistency with state housing and land use laws.
- G. The Ordinance implements the Housing Element Subprogram 15g purpose of reducing thresholds for agricultural employee housing. The amendments are consistent and compatible with the overall goals and intent of the General Plan. The amendments are consistent with policies of the Agricultural Resources Element that support and encourage agricultural diversification, and farmworker housing development. The revisions are consistent with the Land Use Element policies that support housing development for farm employees.

**SECTION II. Environmental Determination.** The Board finds and determines that adoption of this Ordinance is exempt, in part, under CEQA Guidelines Section 15183. Impacts were analyzed under the General Plan 2020 environmental impact report (EIR) and no new impacts or information trigger subsequent review. The revisions to the County Code made by this Ordinance implement and remain consistent with the California Employee Housing Act are administrative updates that will not result in a direct or indirect change to the environment and are therefore not a project subject to CEQA impact analysis pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378. Therefore, no further CEQA documentation is required.

The Director of Permit Sonoma is directed to file a notice of exemption in accordance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

**SECTION III. Amendment of Sonoma County Code.** Sonoma County Code Chapters 26, 30, 40A, and 40D are amended as provided in Exhibit A.

**SECTION IV. Severability.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this Ordinance. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and every section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared unconstitutional or invalid.

**SECTION V. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be and the same is hereby declared to be in full force and effect from and after thirty (30) days after the date of its passage and shall be published once before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after said passage, with the names of the Supervisors voting for or against the same, in *The Press Democrat*, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Sonoma, State of California.

In regular session of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, introduced, passed and adopted on the seventh day of October, 2025, on regular roll call of the members of said Board by the following vote:

**SUPERVISORS:**

Hermosillo:

Coursey:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Rabbitt:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

**WHEREUPON**, the Chair declared the above and foregoing Ordinance duly adopted and

**SO ORDERED.**

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Chair, Board of Supervisors  
County of Sonoma

ATTEST:

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M. Christina Rivera,  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors