

Date: April 30, 2024

Item Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Resolution Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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4/5 Vote Required

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**Resolution Of The Board Of Directors Of The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Delegating Authority For Compliance Procedures Under The California Environmental Quality Act**

WHEREAS, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (Ag + Open Space) routinely performs discretionary actions that are subject to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and

WHEREAS, State CEQA Guidelines, section 15022, requires local agencies to adopt procedures for the implementation of CEQA; and

WHEREAS, CEQA section 21082 and State CEQA Guidelines section 15022 further require that the objectives, criteria, and procedures adopted by a public agency shall be consistent with the provisions of CEQA and with the State CEQA Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, State CEQA Guidelines section 15022 allows the State CEQA Guidelines to be adopted by reference; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to formally update Ag + Open Space's policies with respect to CEQA compliance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. All of the recitals above are true and correct.
2. Ag + Open Space adopts the State of California's CEQA Guidelines by reference, as they may be amended.

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3. The General Manager is authorized to hold such hearings, public workshops, or meetings that may be necessary or convenient under CEQA.
4. The General Manager is authorized to issue such notices that may be necessary or convenient under CEQA.
5. With appropriate reliance on Ag + Open Space's scientific and technical expertise, the General Manager is authorized to determine how best to comply with CEQA, including, but not limited to:
  - (A) determining whether there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment, or determining whether a project is ministerial, or determining whether a project is categorically or otherwise exempt;
  - (B) conducting initial studies and making determinations whether and how to prepare negative declarations or draft and final Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs);
  - (C) consulting with and obtaining comments from other public agencies and members of the public with regard to the environmental effects of projects;
  - (D) evaluating and responding to comments received on environmental documents, and assigning responsibility for determining the adequacy of an EIR or negative declaration;
  - (E) filing documents required or authorized by CEQA, the CEQA Guidelines, and these procedures;
  - (F) assigning responsibility for specific functions to particular departments of the District;
  - (G) providing time periods for performing functions under CEQA.
6. The General Manager is authorized to comment on other agencies' CEQA documents, as contemplated by CEQA, where Ag + Open Space is a responsible or trustee agency under CEQA, or where the General Manager determines that the interests of the agency are impacted.
7. The General Manager is authorized to adopt such additional CEQA guidelines and procedures that may be necessary or convenient.
8. The General Manager may redelegate the authority conveyed by this resolution.

**Directors: Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District**

Gorin: Coursey: Gore: Hopkins: Rabbitt:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

**So Ordered.**