

ORDINANCE NO. ()

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SONOMA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 13A TO CLARIFY ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURES

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

Section I. The following sections of Sonoma County Code Chapter 13A, Duty to Maintain Defensible Space and Abate Hazardous Vegetation and Combustible Material, are amended as follows:

A. Section 13A-2 (Authority) is amended to read:

This chapter is enacted pursuant to sections 14930 and 14931 of the California Health and Safety Code regarding the abatement of hazardous vegetation and combustible material and section 25845 of the California Government Code regarding general nuisance abatement.

B. The definition of “County fire warden/fire marshal” in Section 13A-3 (Definitions) is amended to read:

“County fire warden/fire marshal” means the fire warden/fire marshal of the county of Sonoma or his/her designated representative, including:

- (1) Chiefs of all fire protection districts within the territory of the political subdivision within the county where he/she serves, and their deputies may assist with conducting inspections and sending notices of violation to the fire warden/fire marshal to enforce;
- (2) All employees of the county of Sonoma fire prevention and hazardous materials division; and
- (3) Such other officers as are designated by the board of supervisors or the county fire warden/fire marshal.

C. Section 13A-6 (Summary abatement proceedings) is amended to read:

In addition to the authority granted by law to the county fire warden/fire marshal in exigent situations, and pursuant to California Government Code § 25845, as amended, the county fire warden/fire marshal is authorized to enter real property and summarily abate any public nuisance determined by the county fire warden/fire marshal to constitute an immediate threat to public health or safety without prior notice or hearing. The costs of summary abatement shall become a lien against the property, pursuant to the procedures set forth in Sonoma County Code sections 1-7 and 1-7.3.

D. Section 13A-7 is amended to read:

Sec. 13A-7. - Abatement of violations

The fire warden/fire marshal is authorized to enforce the provisions of this Chapter and is the enforcing officer for purposes of Chapter 1. Violations of this Chapter may be enforced in accordance with the provisions and procedures set forth in Chapter, including but not limited to sections 1-7, 1-7.1, 1-7.3, and 1-7.6, or any other applicable provision of law, at the discretion of the enforcing officer.

Section II. 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 III. 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.

Section IV. Environmental Review. The Board of Supervisors finds and determines that this ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines as it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment, as the ordinance only clarifies language in a previously duly adopted ordinance. Additionally and alternatively, the Board of Supervisors finds and determines that this ordinance is exempt under Sections 15307 and 15308 of the CEQA Guidelines because the standards set forth in this ordinance are authorized by state law to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement or protection of natural resources and the environment. This finding and determination is based on the environmental determination of Permit Sonoma for this ordinance. The Director of Permit Sonoma is directed to file a notice of exemption in accordance with CEQA and the State and local CEQA Guidelines.

In regular session of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, introduced on the 4th day of November, 2025, and finally passed and adopted this 8th day of December, 2025, on regular roll call of the members of said Board by the following vote:

SUPERVISORS:

Hermosillo: Rabbitt: Coursey: Gore: Hopkins:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

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

SO ORDERED.

Chair, Board of Supervisors
County of Sonoma

ATTEST:

M. Christina Rivera,
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors