



Notice of Exemption

To: County Clerk, Sonoma County
2300 County Center Drive, B177
Santa Rosa, California 95403

From: Sonoma County Regional Parks
400 Aviation Blvd. Suite 100
Santa Rosa, California 95403

The Sonoma County Regional Parks Department, pursuant to Section 23A-11 of the Sonoma County Code, determines that the following project is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act:

Acquisition of Monte Rio Redwoods Regional Park and Open Space Preserve Expansion

Project Title

APNs 097-290-001, 097-290-002, 097-290-003, 097-290-004, 097-290-005, 097-290-006, 097-290-007

Project Location – Specific

Unincorporated Sonoma County near Monte Rio

Sonoma County

Project Location - City

Project Location - County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The project consists of the acquisition of an undeveloped 1,517-acre property located south of the community of Monte Rio and northwest of the community of Occidental being further described as APNs 097-290-001, -002, -003, -004, -005, -006, and -007. The property would be acquired from Save the Redwoods League. The County would grant a conservation easement to the Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space District protecting the habitat and recreation values of the property.

The property would be incorporated into Monte Rio Redwoods Regional Park and Open Space Preserve connecting more than 10,000 acres of protected and public land including Sonoma Coast State Park and the Bohemia Preserve. It helps protect an irreplaceable north-south wildlife corridor between Mendocino and Marin Counties and creates potential east-west recreation connections from the Lower Russian River Area to the coast on existing public lands.

The purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the open space values of the Property and to improve habitat connectivity and recreational connections benefitting the general public. To facilitate conservation and recreation on the property, the County may replace or reconstruct existing fences and gates, provide minor fuel management and debris removal, conduct limited habitat restoration, maintain the existing access including minor trail/road work, perform maintenance and minor repairs, and provide public access to the Property.

Sonoma County

Sonoma County Regional Parks Department

Public Agency Approving Project

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project**Exempt Status**

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ministerial | [§21080(b)(1); §15268; §15269(b)(c)] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declared Emergency | [§21080(b)(3); §15269(a)] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Emergency Project | [§21080(b)(4)] |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Statutory Exemption | §21080.28(a); §15260-15285 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | General Rule | §15061(b)(3): Review for Exemption |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Categorical Exemption | §15301: Existing Facilities |

Reasons why project is exempt: Pursuant to, §21080.28(a) the acquisition of this property is exempt from CEQA because the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the land for park purposes as specified in subsection (a)(1)(F). Repair and replacement of existing infrastructure is exempt per §15301: Existing Facilities.

Contact Person: Bert Whitaker, Director
Sonoma County Regional Parks Department

Telephone Number: (707) 565-2041 **Date:** _____