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Date: September 24, 2019

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

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

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**Resolution of the Board Of Directors of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Determining that the Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve Management Plan Project Will Not Have A Significant Effect On The Environment; Adopting the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project; Adopting Mitigation Measures and a Mitigation Monitoring Plan for the Project; Approving the Project; Making Associated Findings; and Authorizing the Filing of a Notice of Determination.**

**Whereas**, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (hereinafter "District") owns approximately 960 acres of land located at 2300 Calistoga Road, Santa Rosa (APNs: 028 380 008, 028 390 028, 028 160 044, 028 160 080), known as the Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve (hereinafter the "Preserve");

**Whereas**, the District proposes to implement a management plan for the Preserve, which provides for specific land management actions to address existing conditions and natural processes, such as soil erosion and invasive species, that could have a significant impact on the Preserve's unique conservation values if left unaddressed; and

**Whereas**, the District, as Lead Agency for the Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve Management Plan Project ("Project"), prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and State CEQA Guidelines, which discloses the potential environmental impacts of implementing the Project, identifies the means to avoid or reduce potential significant effects on the environment with the addition of mitigation measures and, as a result, concludes that the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment; and

**Whereas**, pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21092 and State CEQA Guidelines section 15072, the District posted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt a proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration ("MND") for the Project on May 1, 2019 for thirty days at the County Clerk's office, submitted the Initial Study and draft MND to the State Clearinghouse and interested public agencies on May 3, 2019, notified the members of the public located within a half mile of the Project through direct mailings sent on (date), posted the NOI in the local newspaper, on the District's website, at the Preserve, and in local public buildings, and made the documents available for review at the District's administrative offices, local libraries and on the District's website; and

**Whereas**, comments regarding the Project were received from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the general public, which comments have

been put on file with the Clerk for review by this Board and the public; and

**Whereas**, the Board has considered the comments received during the public review period for the Project along with the Initial Study and MND and finds that there is no substantial evidence in the record that the Project, as mitigated, will have a significant effect on the environment; and

**Whereas**, CEQA requires the Lead Agency approving a project to adopt a monitoring program for the changes made to the project or conditions of project approval that are adopted in order to mitigate or avoid potentially significant effects on the environment; and

**Whereas**, the Mitigation and Monitoring Program that is included as Exhibit A to this Resolution has been prepared to serve this purpose for the Project;

**Whereas**, the District has prepared a Notice of Determination for the Project in accordance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that this Board of Directors hereby finds, determines, declares and orders as follows with respect to the Project:

1. *Truth of Recitals.* That the foregoing recitations are true and correct.
2. *California Environmental Quality Act.*
  - a. The Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project was prepared, noticed, made available for public review in accordance with all procedural and substantive requirements of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.
  - b. The Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project is an adequate informational document, and has provided this Board and the public with full and fair disclosure of potential environmental impacts associated with the Project.
  - c. The Board certifies that it has received the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project, and reviewed and considered the information contained therein prior to making the approvals set forth below.
  - d. The Board further certifies that the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project reflects its independent judgment and analysis. The conclusions presented in these findings are based upon the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration and other evidence in the administrative record.
  - e. The Board certifies that it has reviewed and considered the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project, as well as the comments received during the public review process, prior to reaching its decision on the proposed Project. The Board certifies that its findings are based on a full appraisal of all viewpoints, including all comments received

through the date of the adoption of these findings, concerning the environmental impacts identified and analyzed in the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project.

- f. A part of the Mitigated Negative Declaration consists of a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program consistent with the requirements of the Public Resources Code Section 21081.6, which lists all of the mitigation measures, specifies the appropriate responsible party for implementing each mitigation measure, and identifies approximate time frames for implementing of each mitigation measure;
- g. The measures described by the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program substantially reduce potentially significant adverse environmental effects of the Project to less-than-significant levels. Such measures are incorporated into the Project and are adopted by the District as conditions of approval for the Project. Such measures are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of the District and are fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other measures.
- h. The Board finds that there is no substantial evidence in the record before it that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment.
- i. The Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project, as submitted to this Board, is hereby adopted.
- j. The Mitigation and Monitoring Program that is included as Exhibit A to this Resolution and is hereby adopted.

3. *Project Approval; Notice of Determination.* The Project is hereby approved and the District's General Manager is hereby directed to file a Notice of Determination with the County Clerk pursuant to Public Resources Code 21152.

4. *Administrative Record.* The Clerk of the Board is designated as the custodian of the documents and other materials that constitute the record of the proceedings upon which the Board's decisions herein are based. These documents may be found at the office of the Clerk of the Board, 575 Administration Drive, Room 100A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

**Directors:**

Gorin:

Zane:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Rabbitt:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

**So Ordered.**