



# ***NOTICE OF EXEMPTION***

**Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department**  
2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
(707) 565-1900

**Project Title:** Building Code Amendments for Emergency Housing  
**Lead Agency / County Agency of Filing:** Sonoma County  
**Project Proponent (Applicant):** Permit and Resource Management Department  
**Applicant Address:** 2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
**Project Location:** County-wide  
**Date of Approval:** September 14, 2020  
**Exemption Filed With:** Sonoma County Clerk

---

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma and the Board of Commissioners of the Sonoma County Community Development Commission jointly declared a Homeless State of Emergency on October 9, 2018 and the conditions leading to this declaration are still relevant and in effect now. Since that declaration, the number of people occupying large homeless encampments has increased, resulting in health and safety concerns for those occupants and the overall community. It is the County's belief that extraordinary immediate actions and coordination are required to address this dire situation. Pursuant to California Government Code section 8698.4, the County may suspend provisions of any housing, health, habitability, planning and zoning, or safety standards, procedures or laws, provided the County has adopted local standards and procedures for emergency housing shelters consistent with ensuring public health and safety.

The California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2, California Building Code Appendix O Emergency Housing and Part 2.5, California Residential Code Appendix X Emergency Housing both contain standards relative to emergency housing. The County is proposing to modify the existing emergency housing standards within CBC Appendix O and CRC Appendix X to provide the County more flexibility while maintaining minimum life safety requirements during the declared homeless state of emergency. Local amendments are permitted pursuant to California Government Code section 8698.4.

---

## **REASON WHY THIS PROJECT IS EXEMPT:**

It has been determined that this ordinance is exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15307 and 15308 in that the standards set forth in the ordinance is authorized by state law to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement or protection of natural resources and the environment. In addition, it has been determined that this ordinance is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the common-sense exemption Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines as it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed modifications and clarifications to construction and fire safety policy and standards, which are already substantially in extant and in practice and certified by the state, may have a significant effect on the environment. The proposed project is exempt under section 15061 (b)(3) of the state CEQA guidelines because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment

---

This Notice of Exemption is filed pursuant to the provisions of Section 15062 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

---

## **Lead Agency Contact Person:**

Chris Seppeler  
Senior Environmental Specialist  
Permit and Resource Management Department  
Project Review Division  
(707) 565-8353

## **Project Proponent:**

Nathan Quarles  
Deputy Director of Engineering and Construction  
Permit and Resource Management Department  
(707) 565-1146