



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department

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Sonoma County proposes to carry out the following project. Pursuant to Section 23A-11 of the Sonoma County Code, it has been determined that this project is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

Project Title: Minor and Technical Revisions to the County Code Provisions Governing New Vineyard and Orchard Development, Vineyard and Orchard Replanting, Agricultural and Construction Grading and Drainage to Establish a Registration Process for Low-Impact Vineyard Replanting and to Clarify or Strengthen Requirements, Procedures, and Definitions.

Project Number: N/A

Lead Agency / County Agency of Filing: Sonoma County

Project Proponent (Applicant): Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures and Permit and Resource Management Department (Permit Sonoma)

Applicant Addresses: 133 Aviation Blvd, Suite 110 (Agriculture) and 2550 Ventura Avenue (Permit Sonoma), Santa Rosa CA 95403

Project Location: Countywide

Date of Approval: December 8, 2020

Exemption Filed With: Sonoma County Clerk

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Sonoma County Code is being amended to make minor and technical revisions to Chapter 36 (New Vineyard and Orchard Development, Vineyard and Orchard Replanting, and Agricultural Grading and Drainage) and Chapter 11 (Construction Grading and Drainage) to establish a registration process for low-impact vineyard replanting and to clarify or strengthen requirements, procedures, and definitions.

The revisions to Chapter 36 include establishing a definition of low-impact vineyard replanting; establishing an exemption from vineyard and orchard replanting permit requirements for low-impact vineyard replanting where authorized by a valid low-impact vineyard replanting registration; establishing a registration requirement for low-impact vineyard replanting; establishing registration procedures and approval criteria for low-impact vineyard replanting; establishing a one-year term for low-impact vineyard replanting registrations; establishing a final inspection requirement for work performed under a low-impact vineyard replanting registration; and making miscellaneous changes to clarify or strengthen requirements, procedures, and definitions.

The revisions to Chapter 11 include miscellaneous changes to clarify or strengthen requirements, procedures, and definitions to maintain consistency with Chapter 36.

REASON WHY THIS PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

The proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA under Sections 15307 and 15308 of the State CEQA Guidelines (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources and the Environment). These exemptions cover actions taken by regulatory agencies as authorized by state law or local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of natural resources or the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for the protection of the environment. Construction activities and relaxation of standards allowing environmental degradation are not included in these exemptions. The proposed project is also exempt from CEQA under Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines because it can be seen with certainty that the project (ordinance) will have no significant impact on the environment. The basis for these

determinations is that the proposed project only makes changes to Chapter 36 of the County Code to establish a registration process for low-impact vineyard replanting and to clarify or strengthen requirements, procedures, and definitions, only makes changes to Chapter 11 of the County Code to clarify or strengthen requirements, procedures, and definitions to maintain consistency with Chapter 36 of the County Code, and does not involve construction or any other activity that could physically change the environment.

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

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