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OPEN
SPACE**
SONOMA COUNTY

2019059008

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Title: Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve Management Plan

Location: Sonoma County, California

APN: 028 380 008; 028 390 028; 028 160 044; and 028 160 080

Lead Agency: Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
747 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 100, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Contact Person: Monica Delmartini, Stewardship Specialist, tel: (707) 565-7260

Public Comment Period: May 1, 2019 – May 30, 2019

Project Description: The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (“District”) owns the 960-acre Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve located in southeastern Sonoma County. In order to manage, enhance, and protect the resources within the Preserve, the District proposes to adopt and implement the Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve Management Plan. The Management Plan includes a variety of short-term, medium-term, and long-term management activities that would be implemented by the District to protect and enhance the resources on the Preserve. The proposed project is the adoption and implementation of the Management Plan.

Mitigated Negative Declaration:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the District proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the above-cited project. Such Mitigated Negative Declaration is based on the finding that, by implementing the identified mitigation measures, the project’s potential impacts will be maintained at a less than significant level. The reasons to support such a finding are documented in the Initial Study prepared by the District. Copies of the Initial Study, the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, and supporting materials are available for review on the District’s website at www.sonomaopenspace.org/saddle-plan; the District’s office located at 747 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA; and the Rincon Valley Regional Library located at 6959 Montecito Boulevard, Santa Rosa, CA.

In accordance with the CEQA Guidelines, any comments concerning the findings of the Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration must be submitted in writing and received by 5:00 p.m. on May 30, 2019, in order to be considered prior to the District’s final determination on the project. Please submit your written comments to Monica Delmartini, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, 747 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 100, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 or Monica.Delmartini@sonoma-county.org.

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: **2019059008**

Project Title: Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve Management Plan

Lead Agency: Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

Contact Name: Monica Delmartini

Email: Monica.Delmartini@sonoma-county.org Phone Number: (707) 565-7260

Project Location: Unincorporated Sonoma County, northeast of Santa Rosa

City

County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (District) owns the 960-acre Saddle Mountain Preserve, located just northeast of Santa Rosa in Sonoma County. In order to manage, enhance, and protect the resources within the Preserve, the District proposes to adopt and implement the Saddle Mountain Preserve Management Plan. The Management Plan includes a variety of short-term and long-term management activities that would be implemented by the District to protect and enhance the natural and cultural resources on the Preserve. The proposed project is the adoption and implementation the Management Plan.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The project includes the following mitigation measures to reduce potentially significant impacts: BIO-1, Avoid Loss of Special-status Plants and their Habitats; BIO-2, Protect Special-status Plants during Prescribed Burning; BIO-3, Protect Fish and Aquatic Wildlife Species; BIO-4, Protect Nesting Birds; BIO-5, Protect Northern Spotted Owl; BIO-6, Protect Special-status Bats; BIO-7, Protect Wetlands and Waters; CUL-1, Identify and Avoid or Minimize Impacts on Historic Resources; CUL-2, Avoid Impacts on Previously Undiscovered Historic Resources; CUL-3, Minimize Impacts of Prescribed Fire on Cultural Resources; CUL-4, Identify and Avoid or Minimize Impacts on Archaeological Resources; CUL-5, Procedures for Encountering Human Remains; GEO-1, Avoid or Document Paleontological Resources; HAZ-1, Reduce Wildland Fire Hazards during Construction; NOI-1, Reduce Noise; TCR-1, Consult with Native American Tribes if Previously Undiscovered Artifacts are Discovered; and TCR-2, Identify and Avoid or Minimize Impacts on Tribal Cultural Resources.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

No areas of controversy have been identified.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Sonoma County Permit and Resources Department