

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: ☒ Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Blvd
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

☒ County Clerk
County of Sonoma
585 Fiscal Drive, Room 103
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Project Title: Wildfire Resilience at Spring Lake Regional Park

Project Location – Specific: Spring Lake Regional Park, 5585 Newanga Avenue

Project Location – City: Santa Rosa

Project Location – County: County of Sonoma

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The Wildfire Resilience at Spring Lake Regional Park Project (Project) proposes vegetation management activities and hazardous fuel reduction on high-risk public lands owned by the Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water).

The Project would include vegetation management for fire fuel reduction in accordance with California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan using funds administered by the California Coastal Conservancy. Work would include grazing by goats and vegetation management by hand crews. Hand crew work would include trimming and removal of overgrown vegetation and dead surface plant materials by cutting, removing, chipping on-site and/or mowing. Equipment would include hand tools and mechanized hand equipment such as string trimmers, chainsaws, pole saws, and/or chippers.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Sonoma County Water Agency

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sonoma County Water Agency

Exempt Status (check one):

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☒ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080 (b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15301, Existing Facilities; 15304, Minor Alterations to Land
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State Code number:

Reasons why project is exempt: This project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to statutory exemption Section 15269(c), Emergency Projects; categorical exemption (Class 1) Section 15301, Existing Facilities; and categorical exemption (Class 4) Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land. The project includes minor alterations to vegetation through hazardous fuel reduction activities within an existing facility necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency and no expansion of use would result. The project is located adjacent to areas that burned in the Tubbs and Nuns fires (2017) and the Glass Fire (2020), which combined, resulted in the loss of approximately 6,000 structures. Multiple years of drought conditions locally resulted in Governor Newsom's proclamation of a state of emergency for Sonoma County on April 21, 2021, and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors declaring a drought emergency on April 27, 2021, due to drought conditions, indicating that the 2021 fire season could be severe as well. The project is located within a popular regional park in Santa Rosa's Wildland Urban Interface and in an area for high potential for fire risk to public health, safety and welfare of neighboring residents. There are no facts or circumstances specific to this project that would support an exception to the categorical exemption. No exceptions listed under Section 15300.2 apply. No work would take place within sensitive habitat, including wetlands or within 100 feet of a creek and no ground disturbance, such as excavation, would take place.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jessica Martini-Lamb

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 707-547-1903

Signature

Title

Date

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

☒ Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Attachment A: Project Map

