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☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)			\$	
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Every free fee				
■ Exempt from fee Notice of Exemption (attach)				
■ Notice of Exemption (attach)				
CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)				
☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt	copy)			
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Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

JUN 16 2025

MARK CHURCH, County Clerk
By

Notice of Categorical Exemption

To:

San Mateo County Clerk County of San Mateo 555 County Center, First Floor Redwood City, CA 94063 From: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

5050 El Camino Real Los Altos, CA 94022

Project Title: Proposed Purchase of Property as an addition to Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

Project Location: Assessor's Parcel Number 080-360-010

City: Unincorporated area

County: San Mateo

Description of Project: The project consists of the purchase of an approximately 273.5-acre property as an addition to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (District) Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve and concurrent adoption of a Preliminary Use and Management Plan (PUMP) for the property. The adoption of the PUMP establishes a status quo land management approach, with no expansion or changes to the Property's existing use as open space and maintains it in a natural condition. The Property is currently grazed and, if feasible, that use would continue. As directed in the proposed PUMP, maintenance and minor resource management activities will be conducted in accordance with adopted District policies and programs and their associated CEQA documents.

The Property is within the boundaries of the District's Service Plan for the San Mateo County Coastal Annexation Area. The Service Plan and the Service Plan Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), certified in 2004, includes policies, guidelines, and mitigations to ensure compatibility with the County General Plan and Local Coastal Program. The actions proposed will be conducted in compliance with the Service Plan and FEIR.

Any minor erosion and sediment control measures, wildland fuel management, and minor resource management activities implemented by the District or tenants as part of the PUMP will be conducted in accordance with the District's approved Resource Management Policies and the mitigation measures adopted as part of the Resource Management Policies' FEIR, and in accordance with applicable regulatory permits. Any invasive species control will be conducted in accordance with the District's adopted Integrated Pest Management Policies and Integrated Pest Management Program Guidance Manual, Best Management Practices, and the mitigation measures adopted as part of the Integrated Pest Management Policies' FEIR.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Same as above

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption

Section 15301 - Repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing facilities

Section 15316 - Transfer of Ownership of Land in Order to Create Parks

Section 15325 - Transfer of Ownership of Interest in land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

Section 15301 exempts the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond the existing uses at the time of the lead agency's determination. The PUMP will maintain the Property as status quo with no expansion or

changes to its existing uses as open space lands with the possibility of continued cattle grazing, complying with the District's adopted Resource Management Policies, Integrated Pest Management Program Guidance Manual, Best Management Practices, and regulatory permits as applicable. The PUMP includes minor site improvements, such as signage and fencing, as needed. The PUMP also includes maintenance of the existing roads as necessary, as well as maintenance of or minor alterations to the property for wildland fuel management and other natural resource management activities in accordance with the District's adopted policies and programs and their associated CEQA documents.

Section 15316 exempts the acquisition of land in order to create parks if the land is in a natural condition, and the management plan proposes to keep the area in a natural condition. The PUMP for the Property specifies that the land will remain in a natural condition and will be designated as an addition to the District's Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve.

Section 15325 exempts transfers of ownership of interests in land to preserve open space. This acquisition will transfer fee ownership of the Property to the District to ensure that the open space will be preserved and incorporated into Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve.

In addition, none of the exceptions listed in Section 15300.2 apply to this project.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

Aaron Peth, Real Property Planner III Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Telephone: (650) 691-1200

Attachments: Location Map

Signature:

Aaron Peth, Real Property Planner III

Date: <u>6/11/2025</u>

