

ORDINANCE NO. ()

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SONOMA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 26 OF THE SONOMA COUNTY CODE (ZONING) TO REVISE SECTION 26-04-020 (GLOSSARY), THE TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE (SECTION 26-88-010(M), VALLEY OAK HABITAT COMBINING DISTRICT (ARTICLE 67), RIPARIAN CORRIDOR COMBINING ZONE (ARTICLE 65), AND MINOR AND MAJOR TIMBERLAND CONVERSION PERMITS (SECTIONS 26-88-140, -160) FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL PLAN, AND DETERMINING EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California, ordains as follows:

Section I. The Board finds and declares that the adoption of this Ordinance is necessary to conserve and enhance native trees, in order to maintain the essential ecosystem services they provide to the natural and built environments, support the health and welfare of the public, and maintain one of the most effective natural tools to sequester carbon and support greater resilience against the damaging effects of climate change, while balancing resource protection with sustainable development, and will achieve General Plan Objective OSRC-7.6 to establish standards and programs to protect native trees and plant communities.

Section II. The Board finds and declares that the adoption of this ordinance is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15307 (actions by regulatory agencies for protection of natural resources) and 15308 (actions by regulatory agencies for protection of the environment). These exemptions cover actions taken to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of natural resources or the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for the protection of the environment. The ordinance makes changes to clarify and strengthen existing requirements, standards and definitions in Sonoma County Code Chapter 26, and does not involve construction or any other activity that could degrade or physically change the environment. The ordinance is also exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that the ordinance will have no significant impact on the environment. The Director of Permit Sonoma is directed to file a notice of exemption in accordance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

Section III. Sonoma County Code Chapter 26 is amended as shown in attached Exhibit "A," which is incorporated by reference.

Section IV. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this Ordinance. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and every section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared unconstitutional or invalid.

Section V. This Ordinance shall be and the same is hereby declared to be in full force and effect from and after thirty (30) days after the date of its passage and shall be published once before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after said passage, with the names of the Supervisors voting for or against the same, in *The Press Democrat*, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Sonoma, State of California.

In regular session of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, introduced on the X day of X, 2022, and finally passed and adopted this X day of X, 2022, on regular roll call of the members of said Board by the following vote:

SUPERVISORS:

Gorin: Rabbitt: Coursey: Hopkins: Gore:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared the above and foregoing Ordinance duly adopted and

SO ORDERED.

Chair, Board of Supervisors
County of Sonoma

ATTEST:

Sheryl Bratton,
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors