

This notice was posted on 03/05/2026
and will remain posted for a period of thirty days
through 04/05/2026

Deva Marie Proto, County Clerk
BY: *GR*
Norma Gonzalez, Deputy Clerk



Doc No.49-03052026-060

NOTICE OF CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION

Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department

2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 565-1900 Fax (707) 565-1103

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

Project Title: Muniz Ranch Road to PPI Driveway
Public Agency: Sonoma County
Project Applicant: Padmasambhava Peace Institute
Applicant Address: 23125 Fort Ross Road, Cazadero, CA, 95421
Project Location: PPI Driveway and private road between Fort Ross Road and Muniz Ranch Road
Date of Approval: January 27, 2026

To:
County Clerk- Recorder Office Office of Planning and Research
County of Sonoma
585 Fiscal Drive, Room 103 P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Santa Rosa, CA 95403 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE AND BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROJECT:

The County of Sonoma proposes to fund a 50-acre roadside shaded fuel break on Padmasambhava Peace Institute (PPI) property, connecting a network of roadside fuel reduction treatments along Fort Ross Road and Muniz Ranch Road. These three roads (Fort Ross Road, Muniz Ranch Road, and PPI's internal road) are critical Potential Operational Delineation (POD) roads that provide the most direct emergency services ingress route from two nearby fire stations to the Muniz Ranches and Jenner coast. Shaded fuel break work will be implemented along 2.17 miles of a pre-existing road, up to 100 feet from road edge on both sides of the road, as requested by CAL FIRE. The objectives of the project are to reduce fire hazards along the roadway, reduce the vertical and horizontal continuity of vegetative fuel, improve ingress for emergency response services, improve retained tree health, and enhance resilience to future wildfire. Mechanical and manual treatment will remove or reduce dead/dying/diseased vegetation, hazardous vegetation, ladder fuels, some young/healthy trees, and invasive non-native species in the project footprint to increase horizontal and vertical canopy separation. Vegetation to be removed will be cut at grade, with stumps remaining in place. Heavy equipment will be operated primarily from the road prism, and up to 35% slopes, where minimal ground disturbance will occur. A fuel reduction prescription has been developed by a Registered Professional Forester. Work may be done during nesting bird season if nesting surveys are performed prior to commencement of operations. Targeted herbicide hand application may be used to treat invasive broom species and native basal sprouting species. Project-generated and preexisting biomass will be piled, chipped, and/or lopped and scattered to specifications.

EXEMPT STATUS:

Categorical Exemptions. Section 15304(i) Minor Alterations to Land

REASON WHY THIS PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

The project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Sections, Section 15304 (i) Minor Alteration to Land – involving understory fuel management activities within 30 to 100 feet of structures to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation, provided that the activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. Work may be done during nesting bird season if nesting surveys are performed prior to commencement of operations. None of the exceptions in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply to the project.

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

Lead Agency Contact Person:

Courtney Gutman

Courtney Gutman, Senior Environmental Specialist, Permit Sonoma, Natural Resource Division, (707) 565-4232



2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/26) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER:
49-03052026-060

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY SONOMA COUNTY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 03/05/2026
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COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING SONOMA	DOCUMENT NUMBER 26-0305-06
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PROJECT TITLE
MUNIZ RANCH ROAD TO PPI DRIVEWAY

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME ADMASAMBHAVA PEACE INSTITUTE	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER (707) 565-4232
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PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 23125 FORT ROSS ROAD	CITY CAZADERO	STATE CA	ZIP CODE 95421
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PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

Local Public Agency
 School District
 Other Special District
 State Agency
 Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

- Environmental Impact Report (EIR) \$4,227.50 \$ _____
- Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND) \$3,043.75 \$ _____
- Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW \$1,437.25 \$ _____

- Exempt from fee
 - Notice of Exemption (attach)
 - CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)
- Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

- Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only) \$850.00 \$ _____
- County documentary handling fee \$ _____ \$50.00
- Other \$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

- Cash
 Credit
 Check
 Other
- TOTAL RECEIVED \$ _____ \$50.00

SIGNATURE 	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Norma Gonzalez, Deputy County Clerk-Recorder
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