



NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space
District
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The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District is intending to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the following project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

MONTINI OPEN SPACE PRESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project is located along the northern city limit of the city of Sonoma, California. The Montini Open Space Preserve (Preserve) is bounded on the east by 1st St. West, to the west by 5th St. West, to the north by property retained by the Montini family and to the South by Sonoma State Historic Park and the Field of Dreams ballpark.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The Preserve consists of 98 acres, including a 9-acre portion of a parcel located within the city limits of Sonoma, a 26-acre site, also situated within the city limits, and a hillside area of about 63 acres located in the unincorporated county. The Management Plan (plan) for the Preserve addresses the management of natural, cultural, agricultural, and recreational resources on the Preserve. The plan provides for opening the Preserve for public use beyond the periodic guided tours currently offered. In addition, the plan provides recreational access for disabled individuals.

The plan includes measures such as weed control, revegetation, erosion control, fencing, and trail construction and management. The trail would be about 1.8 miles long and connect the east side of the Preserve to the city's Sonoma Overlook Trail and the city's historic plaza and would connect the west side of the Preserve to the city of Sonoma for neighborhood and disabled access. The construction of additional parking would be limited to a small parking lot with two disabled-vehicle-only parking spots at the western access point near the corner of Verano Ave. and 5th St. West and an overflow lot adjoining the Sonoma Overlook Trail trailhead and the Sonoma County Veteran's Memorial Hall. A more detailed description of the project is on file at the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District at the address listed above.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The purpose of the Management Plan is to provide a framework for how the District will manage the Preserve's natural and cultural resources and visitor services.

FINDING: On the basis of the Initial Study (IS), the Assistant General Manager of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District has determined that, with the incorporation of the mitigation measures proposed in the IS, the proposed project would not have a significant adverse effect on the environment.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The draft IS and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and all documents referenced within it are available for a 30-calendar day public review and comment period. During the review period, copies of the draft IS/MND will be available for review at the following locations: an electronic version of the document can be viewed or downloaded from the District's website at: www.SonomaOpenSpace.org; a hard copy of the document may be viewed between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the District Office, located at 747 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 100 in Santa Rosa, at the Sonoma City Hall, and at the Sonoma Valley Library.

HOW TO COMMENT: In accordance with CEQA, the District is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of the analysis and incorporated mitigation measures described in the draft IS/MND for the Montini Open Space Preserve Management Plan. The public comment period begins on November 26, 2008. Interested parties may provide comments on the draft IS/MND in written form, which must be received by the District no later

than on December 26, 2008. Written comments on the draft IS/SMND may be provided by e-mail to llew@sonoma-county.org or be sent via U.S. mail to the following address:

Attention: Leslie Lew
Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
747 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 100
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

All comments provided to the District during the public comment period will be considered in the final IS/MND.

Please call Leslie Lew at the number listed above if you have questions regarding this Notice.