



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

FILING REQUESTED BY AND WHEN FILED, RETURN TO:

Marin County Parks and Open Space District
1600 Los Gatos Drive, Suite 275, San Rafael, CA 94903
www.parks.marincounty.gov
(415) 473-6387

FILED

08/31/2026

SHELLY SCOTT

MARIN COUNTY CLERK

By A.Oxlay Arevalo Deputy

21-2026-145

To: Marin County Clerk
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 234
San Rafael, CA 94903

DATE: August 27, 2026

PROJECT TITLE: SPANISH TRAIL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

PROJECT LOCATION: Old St. Hilary's Open Space Preserve, Tiburon Marin County, CA

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL: 059-251-05

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of the Project: The proposed project is to reduce the existing fuel load within the project area to restore high-quality native grassland. The project area contains high-quality native serpentine grassland, as well as coyote brush scrub and woodland dominated by coast live oak and California bay laurel. Near areas of human development, native habitat has turned into non-native forest types which are now dominated by invasive species. The project area is generally steep with an average 25-degree gradient, with one unnamed ephemeral stream that flows generally along the urban interface before entering a culvert at Paradise Drive that empties into San Francisco Bay.

The project area is approximately 21 acres. All invasive species, including Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*), French broom (*Genista monspessulana*), cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster medik*), and acacia (*Acacia ssp.*) would be removed and selective thinning and limbing of native species including coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) would be implemented within 100 feet of homes in the area of Paradise Drive and Mar East Street to meet defensible space standards, with no removal of mature native trees, or native trees over 8 inches diameter at breast height. Material would be disposed of by pile burning, chipping, or lopping and scattering. Herbicide would be applied to invasive species as a follow-up to cutting, either as a cut-stump or spray treatment. Equipment would include manual tools with chainsaws and weed wrenches. Tracked or wheeled chippers, as well as bucket trucks, may be used in areas with adequate access. Project implementation would occur over a three-year period beginning September 2026. Access for project implementation would be from Paradise Drive, Straits View Drive, Spanish Trail Road, and Heathcliff Fire Road. The proposed project would be implemented by a contractor and funded through Measure A Wildfire Fuel Reduction.

MCOSD would implement appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) consistent with the MCOSD's Road and Trail Management Plan and Vegetation Biodiversity Management Plan including bird nesting surveys if project implementation occurs between February 1 and August 31, to ensure that no trees with active nests or rookeries would be removed. All tree removal BMPs would be implemented. All tools, equipment, and clothing would be clean and free of dirt and vegetative material and treated with a 10 percent bleach solution after working to reduce the spread of sudden oak death. Herbicide application would be buffered from the unnamed ephemeral stream based on California Department of Pesticide Regulation requirements for specific herbicide. Applicable air quality permits from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District would be secured if pile burning is utilized and pile burning would be conducted consistent with regulations. No other regulatory permit authorizations would be required because implementation of the proposed project would not affect jurisdictional waters or special-status species or habitats.

Public Agency Approving Project: Marin County Open Space District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: Chris Chamberlain, Director and General Manager

Reasons for Exemption: The MCOSD has reviewed the project along with its environmental setting and has determined it to be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under the following section of the California Administrative Code:

POSTED 8/31/2026 TO 9/30/2026

Section 15304: Minor Alterations to Land: The proposed project consists of fuel management activities to reduce the existing fuel load and restore native grassland. Best Management Practices would be implemented and for these reasons, implementation of the proposed project would not impact endangered, rare, or threatened plant or wildlife species. The proposed project would not result in erosion or sedimentation of surface waters because no work would occur adjacent to surface and stormwater measures such as straw wattles would be utilized if needed to prevent soil disturbance during the rainy season. The project area is not located within a state scenic highway and given the dense vegetation within the project area, implementation of the proposed project would not negatively affect scenic resources. The project area is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Implementation of the project would not affect historical buildings or other historical resources. Fuel reduction activities in the project area during the past 5 years includes French broom removal. In consideration of these past fuel reduction activities relative to the existing environmental setting, implementation of the proposed project would not result in cumulative impacts or result in a significant effect to the environment due to unusual circumstances.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION – LOCATION MAP

SAINT HILARYS OPEN SPACE PRESERVE – SPANISH TRAIL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

August 27, 2026

