NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: County Clerk  
County of Santa Clara  

From: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
330 Distel Circle  
Los Altos, CA 94022

Project Title: Proposed Change of On-Leash Dog Access on Existing Trails at El Sereno Open Space Preserve

Project Location: El Sereno Open Space Preserve (APN 510-48-003; 544-06-003; 510-35-002; 510-36-013; 510-33-007; 517-17-019; 517-240-14, 510-33-006) is located on a ridgeline south of the town of Saratoga and Highway 9 and west of the town of Los Gatos and west of Highway 17.

City: Unincorporated Santa Clara County  
County: County of Santa Clara

Description of Project: The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is proposing a trail use change to allow on-leash dog access over 5.9 miles of four (4) existing trail segments (Montevina Ridge, Aquinas, Loma Vista and Serenity Trails) and modification of existing signs to reflect this change in use. Although all trails not currently allowing on-leash dog access in the Preserve are included in this review, the District would not implement on-leash dog access over an approximately 0.3-mile portion of the Aquinas Trail on San Jose Water Company property, until and if public access rights are formalized on this segment.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Same

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption  Section 15301 – Existing Facilities

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines, the proposed trail use change is categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15301. The Class 1 exemption includes the minor alteration of existing public facilities or topographical features involving negligible expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency’s determination. Examples of such public facilities include existing bicycle, pedestrian and similar facilities. Changing the allowed use on the 5.9 miles of existing trails at El Sereno Open Space Preserve to on-leash dog access is a minor alteration of existing trails. This would be a negligible expansion of the existing trail use, and this exemption applies based on the current informal dog use already occurring in the Preserve as documented by District ranger observations and citations, existing dog access already permitted on the Overlook Trail, ongoing limited general public access due to private roads surrounding most of the Preserve and lack of parking, and no plans for new parking improvements to facilitate expanded trail use.

Lead Agency  
Contact Person: Tina Hugg, Senior Planner  
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
Telephone: (650) 691-1200

Attachments: Map of Dog Access Change

Signature:  
Jane Mark, AICP, Planning Manager  
Date: 1/3/2017