

The Sea Ranch Market Area Analysis

Sonoma County · Single-family detached houses

Guide to the site files and the town page

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Site folder 20261030_town, built 31 October 2026

1 What the folder is

The folder `ValEngr-Data/sites/sea-ranch/20261030_town` is a complete website made by the program `market_report` from the run's model files, with the same pages as the county sites. It shows what drives the value of single-family detached houses in The Sea Ranch, as fitted by three regression programs, with the adjustments each model implies.

No sale, address, parcel number, MLS number, coordinates or remarks is in these files. They hold fitted models, curves, surfaces and summary measures only.

The folder has one town page, The Sea Ranch, and a Sonoma County page whose map shows The Sea Ranch on the coast. No other Sonoma County town is analysed yet.

The run. The page is built from the run of 31 October 2026 (sales from 1 January 2015 to 30 September 2026, effective date 1 October 2026), with the same pipeline as the county sites: the sale type factor, the duress rule, the extreme price filter (sales in the lowest or highest 0.5% of prices left out) and the reviewed listing corrections. Of 952 sales read, the data checks left out 136; 570 fit the models and 245 select the interactions.

Every closed sale. Unlike the county sites, which keep only the latest sale of each house, this run keeps every closed sale, so a house that sold twice counts twice: repeat sales show how prices changed over time in a defined area. Withdrawn, canceled and expired listings are not sales and are left out, and a sale recorded on two listings (relisted, or entered in two MLSs) counts once. The held-out groups are drawn by sale, not by house, so a repeat sale can be predicted with the other sale of the same house in the fitted data; the held-out measures may be slightly better than for unrelated sales.

The data. The sales come from the MLS, completed from the full MLS record of The Sea Ranch since 1993: the building type (attached houses and loft condominiums are left out), and, where a sale has no living area or lot size, the figure from another listing of the same house with the same year built (85 living areas, 2 more from the listing remarks; 17 lot sizes). Where no listing of the house gives a living area, it is estimated from the building footprint and marked living area (est) in the data: $0.9 \times (\text{footprint} \times (1 + 0.31 \times (\text{stories} - 1)) - 200 \text{ square feet per garage bay})$, the footprint from Microsoft Building Footprints; the upper-floor share 0.31 is the typical one of 373 Sea Ranch sales with both a measured living area and a footprint, on which the estimate misses

by 17% in the median. 82 sales have a living area (est). Still, 66 sales are left out for a missing or implausible living area and 36 for a missing lot size.

Ocean view. Both models use the ocean view, in square degrees of visible ocean, measured from lidar heights of ground, buildings and trees (USGS 3DEP survey CA_NorthernCA_1_B22), from points around each house’s building outline. It replaces the distance to the ocean and the count of houses between a house and the ocean used in earlier Sea Ranch models. With the view, the share of the variation explained on held-out sales (OOF R^2) rises from 0.708 to 0.727 for the log model and from 0.671 to 0.681 for the \$ model.

Not an appraisal. These pages show market area models: how features affect the value of single-family houses in each town, for adjustments and market analysis. They are not an appraisal, give no opinion of value for any property and are provided without warranty of any kind.

2 Opening the site

- **Online:** https://research.valuation-engineer.com/CountyMktAnalysis/Sonoma/SFR_Detached/AsOf_20261030/, or from the menu *Neighborhood Studies* on research.valuation-engineer.com. The path names the property class (*SFR_Detached*): other classes, such as attached houses, condominiums, multi-family and mobile homes, get their own folders.
- **On your own computer:** double-click `index.html`. Every page works from the folder itself, with no server and no internet connection. Keep the folder together: the pages read `assets/` and `data/` beside them.
- **On a web server:** copy the whole folder as it is. Plain file hosting is enough.
- A current browser (Chrome, Edge, Firefox or Safari) is needed for the 3D graphs.

3 The files

File or folder	What it holds
<code>index.html</code>	The county page: a map of the county with the town limits, each town shaded by the value of its typical sale (log model), and a table of the towns. Clicking a town on the map opens its page.
<code><town>.html</code>	One page per town, for example <code>the-sea-ranch.html</code> . Section 4 describes how to use it.
<code>data/county.js</code>	The county page’s data: the town limits and each town’s summary figures.
<code>data/<town>.js</code>	One town’s data: the fitted models of the log model and the \$ model, the curves, surfaces and comparison measures.
<code>assets/site.js</code> , <code>assets/site.css</code>	The page program and its styles, shared by every page.
<code>assets/plotly-4.1.2.min.js</code>	Plotly.js, the graph library (MIT license, <code>assets/plotly-LICENSE.txt</code>).

The county page's table

One row per town: the number of fitting sales, the value of the typical sale (log model), and R^2 , OOF R^2 and MdAPE* for the log model and for the \$ model. A town that was not analysed shows the reason in its row.

4 Using a town page

4.1 The bar at the top

- $\leftarrow$ **Sonoma County** returns to the county page.
- **Log model / \$ model** switches every table and graph on the page between the two models. The log model gives effects as percentages of value; the \$ model gives effects in dollars.
- **Dark mode / Light mode** changes the colors. The browser remembers the choice.

The row of links under the title jumps to each section of the page.

4.2 The sections

1. **At a glance.** Tiles for the log model and the \$ model side by side: the value of the typical sale at the effective date, the best model, the number of fitting sales, R^2 , OOF R^2 and the typical residual on held-out sales (MdAPE*): the part of price the features do not carry, mostly condition, quality and appeal. A note appears when a model's OOF R^2 is below 0.65. A table under the tiles lists the typical sale's features.
2. **The models.** The best model from each of the three programs: the GAM (mgcv-rs), MARS (earth-rs) and the elastic net (glmnet-rs). The model with the highest OOF R^2 is marked as the best model. The tiles, the solid line on each graph and the county table use the best model.
3. **What drives value.** One graph per feature: living area, lot size, age, bedrooms, bathrooms, garage, elevation, ocean view and days (sale_age) before Eff. Date, where the town's models use them. Each graph changes that one feature of the typical sale and shows the change in value. The solid line is the best model; the shaded band is the GAM's 95% range.
 - Move the pointer over a line to see the value at that point and the adjustment per step (for example, per 100 sq ft of living area or per 30 days of sale age).
 - Tick **Show the other models on the graphs** to draw the other two programs' lines as well, with a legend.
4. **Neighborhoods and remarks features.** Bar charts for the features that take levels instead of numbers:
 - *MLS area:* each bar is the value change when the typical sale is placed in that MLS area instead of its own.
 - *Fixer:* the fixer discount, the value change when the listing remarks describe the house as a fixer.
 - *Sale type:* the value change from a standard sale for a trust/probate sale, a short sale and a foreclosure sale. A sale type with fewer than 3 sales in the town counts as standard, and the notes under the chart say so.

5. **Surfaces (3D).** Choose a surface from the list:

- *Location (latitude $\times$ longitude):* how the typical sale's value changes across the town. The surface is left blank outside the town limit.
- *Pairs of features:* where the best model lets two features act together (an interaction pair).
- *Living area $\times$ CQA score:* the value of the typical sale at each CQA score from 0.00 to 10.00.

Drag to turn a 3D view and scroll to zoom. The contour map beside it shows the same surface flat, with lines of equal value.

6. **Equations.** Each fitted model written out. MARS and the elastic net are sums of straight-line pieces (hinges); the GAM is a sum of smooth curves, drawn in the graphs above.
7. **Comparison of the models.** Two tables: accuracy on the fitting sales and on sales held out of each fit (R^2 , CV R^2 , OOF R^2 , RMSE*, MdAPE*), and whether the three models agree on the adjustments at the typical sale.
8. **Definitions.** Every term used on the page.

4.3 On every graph

- Hovering shows the exact values.
- The buttons in a graph's top corner zoom, pan, reset the view and save the graph as a PNG image.
- Where a legend is shown, clicking a name hides or shows that line; double-clicking shows that line alone.

5 Reading the figures

- **R^2 first, then the held-out measures.** R^2 is measured on the fitting sales. CV R^2 , OOF R^2 , RMSE* and MdAPE* are measured on sales left out of each fit, so they show how well a model values sales it has not seen. A model fits its own sales better than it values new ones, so R^2 runs above the held-out measures.
- **Typical sale.** A typical sale, not a typical house of the town: houses that sell are often more updated than the houses that do not.
- **Residual.** The sale price less the model's value. The residual holds mostly what the features do not measure, such as condition, quality and appeal.
- An asterisk (*) marks a standard statistical name.

Definitions

Best model

Of the three programs' models (GAM, MARS, elastic net), the one with the highest OOF R^2 .

CQA score

Condition, quality and appeal: the percentile of a house's market appeal divided by 10, from 0.00 to 10.00, read from the residual and refined by the appraiser's judgment.

CV R^2

The average, over the ten groups of sales, of the share of price variation explained for each group when the model is fitted without that group (cross-validated R^2).

Effective date

The date the values refer to; every graph shows the market at this date.

Fitting sales (training sample)

The town's sales the models are fitted on, after the data rules have removed sales that cannot be used.

Fixer discount

The value change when the listing remarks describe the house as a fixer.

Interaction pair

Two features the model is allowed to combine, so the effect of one depends on the level of the other.

Log model (log-transformed model), \$ model (untransformed model)

The two models of each program. The log model fits the logarithm of the price, so effects are percentages of value; the \$ model fits the price itself, so effects are dollars.

MdAPE* (median absolute percentage error)

The middle value of the held-out sales' percentage differences between price and the model's value, ignoring sign. Lower is better.

OOF R^2

The share of price variation explained when every sale is valued by a model fitted without that sale's group (pooled out-of-fold R^2).

 R^2

The share of the variation in sale prices that the model explains, on the sales it was fitted on (coefficient of determination). Higher is better.

RMSE* (root mean square error)

The square root of the average squared difference between price and the model's value on held-out sales, in dollars. Lower is better.

Sale type

Who sold the house: a standard seller, a trustee or executor (trust/probate), an owner in a short sale, or a lender after foreclosure, read from the listing remarks.

Unincorporated market

A town page for a place that is not a city. The Sea Ranch is drawn as its Census place (Sea Ranch CDP) plus the 400 m grid cells that hold at least 3 of its sales.

Town limit

The incorporated boundary of the town, from the US Census Bureau's 2024 TIGER/Line places.

Typical sale

The middle (median) of each feature over the town's fitting sales, valued by the town's best model at the effective date.

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