

**State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation**

2020020232

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
7806 Folsom-Auburn Road
Folsom, CA 95630

PROJECT TITLE: Parkwide Trail and Road Maintenance

LOCATION: Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park

COUNTY: El Dorado

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Maintain State Parks system trails and roads within Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park to provide enjoyable and safe recreational experiences and facilitate public safety services. Routine trail and road vegetation management activities will follow the guidance provided in "Vegetation Management Guidelines for Trails and Roads in Units of the California State Park System" dated January 8, 2002, or as revised (Guidelines), and all trail maintenance activities will follow the guidelines in the current version of the Department Trails Handbook (Handbook). All maintenance activities will adhere to the following standard conditions:

- Notify the District archaeologist, environmental scientist and environmental coordinator (collectively referred to as "specialists") by email, at least 30 days prior to proposed maintenance activities, of the following:
 - Trail/road to be maintained and/or the segments thereof.
 - Trail/road condition(s) and specific maintenance activities to be performed, methodologies and logistics (e.g., vegetation brushing and/or tread maintenance, equipment, staging areas, etc.).
 - Start date of proposed maintenance activities.
 - Crew conducting work and assigned project lead.
- Work will not proceed until site review has been conducted by specialists, if deemed necessary, and any area-specific conditions have been identified in writing by the specialists;
Note: Once a segment of road/trail has been reviewed for maintenance actions, future site review of the same road/trail segment will be minimal or expedited.
- Maintenance activities shall be limited to within the original constructed trail/road footprint which includes cut slope, fill slope, road shoulders, travelway and existing trail structures such as armored crossings, switchbacks, retaining walls, drainage lens, trail bridges;
- Work shall be completed outside periods identified to protect sensitive species or habitat, as follows:
 - March 1 to August 31 (to protect nesting birds).
 - During wet weather (i.e., ½" of precipitation in a 24-hour period) (to protect soil structure and water courses).
- If work cannot be completed outside the sensitive nesting bird period, an environmental scientist or DPR-approved biologist will be notified no less than 14 days prior to the proposed work in order to conduct a nest survey no more than 5 days prior to activities (active nests will be flagged and avoided as determined by the environmental scientist or DPR-approved biologist);
- Work will be completed or monitored by Department staff or DPR-approved contract personnel;
- Volunteer workers (if used) will have resource protection training identified in scope of project and provided before the start of work;
- Debris from vegetation management/brushing activities, as identified in the Guidelines, will be properly disposed as follows (listed in order of preferred method):
 - Piled and burned. Piles may only be lit on approved burn days, by a qualified (fire trained) crew, with appropriate permit and entries into PFIRS, if required.
 - Chipped.
 - Broadcast chips away from all drainages (wet and dry) and tree trunks.
 - Chips will not exceed 4 inches deep in any given area.
 - Invasive plants with seed pods (e.g., broom species, tree of heaven, black locust) will not be chipped unless seed pods are collected and bagged prior to chipping woody material.

- Scattered, as provided in the Guidelines. Seed pods of invasive plants will be collected and bagged prior to scattering plant debris.
- Herbicide use shall adhere to section 0700 – Pest Control of the Department’s Operation Manual and may only be used when a District environmental scientist determines there will be no significant effect on the environment;
- Road grading shall be limited to the extent needed to re-establish the original grade of the road surface, and will remove any rock or soil slides from the roadway, eliminate ruts, rocks or rough spots in the road surface;
- Control dust along native material roads during grading operations;
- Clear in-board ditches by removing slough and debris from ditch to maintain proper drainage. Hardening in-board ditches with riprap will be considered on a case-by-case bases. Use of hand tools and heavy equipment is allowed. Cleared material will be moved to the road tread and used to fill ruts and smooth native soil road surface;
- Remove any berm on outside edge of trail or road as needed to re-establish designed outslope drainage;
- Remove slough from trail tread as needed to re-establish designed trail tread;
- Repair and maintenance of culverts (e.g. – replacement of bent or damaged culvert ends, repairing inlet or outlet rock aprons/energy dissipators);
Note: routine cleaning of functioning culverts (removing loose debris blocking culvert inlets and outlets with no new ground disturbance) is considered a housekeeping activity and not subject to the review and notification requirements of this NOE.
- Add road base (crushed rock) or other clean material to road bed or shoulders to fill low spots;
- Road sealing and repairs of existing surface; and
- Other maintenances activities as agreed to by project manager and specialists.

Regulatory permits will be obtained as required.

This NOE is not intended for emergency road or trail work, as defined in section 15269 – Emergency Projects of the California Code of Regulations, to prevent or mitigate loss or damage to life, health, property or essential public services. For such emergency repairs, the work needed to prevent or mitigate the emergency can proceed without notification requirements identified in this NOE. The definition of “highway” can be found in section 360 of the Vehicle Code and is defined as “a way or place of whatever nature, publicly maintained and open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel. Highway includes street.”

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Gold Fields District

EXEMPT STATUS:

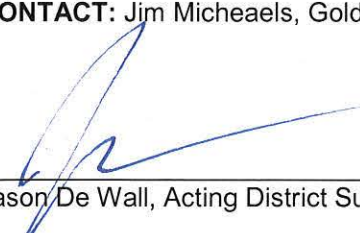
Categorical Exemption Class: 1, 2, 4 Section: 15301, 15302, 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists of the operation, repair and maintenance of existing public facilities involving negligible or no expansion of an existing use, replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced, and minor alterations in the condition of the land, water and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees included as “trail or road repairs” and “replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities” in the Department of Parks and Recreation’s list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR § 15300.4.

CONTACT: Jim Micheaels, Gold Fields District

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 Jason De Wall, Acting District Superintendent/Northern Division Chief



 Date