

Notice of Exemption**Form D**

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Boulevard. Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Phone 707-576-2220
Fax 707-523-0135
Email: NorthCoast@waterboards.ca.gov

Project Title: Mill Creek Trail Improvement Project

Project Location - Specific: 41.77781° N, -124.10063° W

Project Location - City: Crescent City

Project Location - County: Del Norte

Description of Project:

The Project is intended to protect a grove of old-growth redwoods recently discovered in 1998. This area is known as the "Grove of Titans" and was not included in the park's original design for visitor access. As the location of the grove spread online in 2011, unsanctioned visits have increased exponentially. Without any official trails in the grove, visitors have heavily trampled the forest floor vegetation and stripped away the organic apron around every large tree. By 2016, over 3,000 square meters of forest floor had been damaged (Voigt 20161). The existing Mill Creek Trail runs along the south and east edges of the grove but does not provide access into the grove. Visitors have created a network of user-created trails, which are damaging to the forest understory and the root systems of the trees. The proposed reroute would guide visitors into the grove and allow them to get close to the trees without damaging the forest floor. The project would also include reconstruction of the existing Mill Creek Trail from Howland Hill Road to the Hiouchi Trail and rehabilitation of the unsanctioned user-created trails.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: CA State Parks

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); (5268):
 Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a):
 Emergency Project (Sec. 21 080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
 Categorical Exemption, State type and section number: 15304 – Minor Alterations to Land (d).
 Statutory Exemptions, State code number: 15269 (d)

Agency Contact: Brandon Stevens

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 707-576-2377

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No



Digitally signed by
Jonathan Warmerdam
Date: 2020.02.10 15:26:59

Signature: _____
Matthias St. John

Date: 2/10/2020 **Title:** Executive Officer

- Signed by Lead Agency
 Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR:
Governor's Office of Planning & Research

FEB 13 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE