

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth St. Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

Clerk of the Board
Santa Cruz County
701 Ocean St., Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

FROM: City of Watsonville
Parks & Community Services Dept.
250 Main Street
Watsonville, CA 95076

FILE NO. PCS-2020-0803

Project Title: Ramsay Park Bicycle Pump Track

Project Location - Specific: 34 Harkins Slough Rd. Watsonville, CA 95076

Project Location - City: Watsonville

Project Location-County: Santa Cruz

Description of Project: This project will replace an older skateboard park at a 26 acre community park in downtown Watsonville. The existing 15,000 sq. ft. skate area will be expanded by 4,000 sq. ft. to accommodate a new, upgraded bicycle pump track by installing paved asphalt ramps, a drainage system, wooden perimeter fencing, and drought-tolerant landscaping. The new, bicycle pump track area will be 19,000 sq ft.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Watsonville

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Parks and Community Services Dept., City of Watsonville
Exempt Status: (Check One):

Ministerial (Sec.21080 (b)(1); 15268);

Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3);15269(a));

Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

Categorical Exemption. State Type and Section number: Class 1, 3, & 4; Sec. 15301, 15303, 15304

Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is Exempt: This project is eligible for a Class 1, 3, & 4 Categorical Exemption per Sec. 15301, 15303, and 15304 of the CEQA Guidelines as it involves the minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use and consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made to the exterior of the structure and consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, and scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.

The proposed project is not an expansion of capacity, rather it is an enhancement of an existing accessible park amenity. This project will not result in additional environmental impacts relating to aesthetics, erosion, stormwater, groundwater, traffic or air quality. The project will have no or negligible adverse impacts on aesthetics in the surrounding area which is mixed use in an urban setting.

This NOE is consistent with the following code sections:

- 15301 Existing Facilities. Class 1 of this code section consists of operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, licensing or minor alternation of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.

The proposed project is located in an existing public park with active recreation. It does not alter existing use patterns, but rather enhances safety and accessibility within existing facilities. The project does not propose any expansion of use and there are no new proposed buildings.

- 15303 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures. Class 3 of this code section consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made to the exterior of the structure.

The proposed project does not involve major modifications to existing structures, but rather involves minor modifications to the base material, perimeter fencing and configuration of an existing asphalt skate park to accommodate bicycles. The project will expand the track footprint by 4000 square feet to maintain adequate space for bicycles to safely recreate and the new configuration of the bicycle pump track would not result in a change of use.

- 15304 Minor Alterations of Land. Class 4 of this code consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, and scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.

This project does not involve the removal of any healthy, mature or scenic tress. Perimeter drought tolerant landscaping would be increased as a result of this project. Within the track foot print, there would also be low-growing perennial grasses to facilitate site drainage.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Ben Heistein

Telephone: 831-768-3150

Title: Assistant Parks & Community Services Director

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

Signature: 

Date: 8/4/2020

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Aug 04 2020

Signed by Lead Agency
 Signed by Applicant

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
 Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____