



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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

**FROM:** California State Parks  
One Capitol Mall, Suite 410 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**PROJECT TITLE:** Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park Geotechnical Investigation

**LOCATION:** Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park      **COUNTY:** Nevada County

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** The project will provide geotechnical services to identify soil conditions, conduct a seismic investigation and shaft investigation within Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park. Work includes:

**Identification of Soil Conditions:**

- Conduct exploratory borings at 13 sites within Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park.
  - A 6-inch diameter hand auger or a 6-inch diameter dynamic cone penetrometer will be used to conduct exploratory borings at 10 of the 13 sites. Multiple exploratory borings will be conducted at each of the 10 sites for a total of 45 exploratory borings.
  - Conduct exploratory borings at 3 sites near Hiller Tunnel using a Minuteman drill rig.

**Seismic Investigation:**

- Geophysical testing will occur at the Hiller Tunnel and a low point near the southwest corner of the Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park pit floor. Seismic sensors will be laid on the ground in a linear fashion. Energy will be put into the ground using a sledgehammer to strike a flat steel plate and the seismic activity will be collected by the sensors.

**Shaft Investigation:**

- A flume will be installed to monitor water flow into Humbug Creek. The flume will be installed on a thin concrete base to keep it stable. The flume is approximately 2'7" long, by 6" tall, by 9" wide and will be temporarily placed in the drainage. Additionally, piezometers will be installed on stainless steel cables at 5 shaft locations. The cables will be attached to the rock by drilling one hole and anchored with a wedge-type anchor.

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

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** Northern Service Center

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

Categorical Exemption      *Class:* 1, and 4      *Section:* 15301 and 15304

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:**

Project consists of the operation of mechanical equipment and minor alteration of existing public facilities involving negligible use beyond current levels; and the minor public alterations in the conditions of land and vegetation in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR §15300.4.

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DocuSigned by:

*Brian Dewey*

10/2/2020

Brian Dewey, Assistant Deputy Director      Date  
Acquisitions and Development