

Notice of Exemption

To:
Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710



Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Improved Walking Path

Project Location: Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve, 1700 Elkhorn Road, Monterey County

Project Description: The proposed project will include the redesign and resurfacing of the existing Reserve ADA walkway from the visitor center to the viewing platform and the return path along with replacement of the existing viewing platform with the goal of improved safety and equitable access. These improvements will create a more equitable and efficient experience for Reserve visitors and move the Reserve towards meeting its management goal of increasing awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the Elkhorn Slough Reserve.

A rebuilt pathway will improve access for visitors with mobility challenges from the Visitor Center to and including the viewing deck. The Reserve has seen increased visitation by a diversity of audiences; a redesigned and rebuilt pathway and viewing deck will provide access to all the Reserve visitors regardless of their abilities and ensure equity to everyone.

The current pathway is crumbling on the edges and presents safety and access hurdles for all Reserve guests. Likewise, the viewing deck has begun to collapse in many areas presenting safety concerns.

The proposed construction site is well out of the 100-year flood zone and is not located in a watershed floodway. The construction area has already been disturbed by existing infrastructure. Every effort will be made to source materials that conserve and protect water resources and optimize energy performance. Construction methods will be low impact and will incorporate sustainable building practices.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

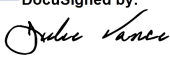
Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Public Resources Code, section 21083. California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15301

Reasons why project is exempt: The project is exempt as it is a repair of existing infrastructure. The project site consists of existing asphalt and gravel pathways and a dilapidated viewing deck, both of which are in current use. These are high visitor and staff vehicle use areas. There are no known sensitive species within the project footprint. Demolition and construction will begin in March 2021.

CDFW Contact Person: Dave Feliz (Senor Environmental Scientist, Supervisory), 831-728-2822

DocuSigned by:

 FA83F09FE08945A...

Signature: _____ Date: 12/22/2020

Julie A. Vance,
Regional Manager, Central Region

Date received for filing at OPR: _____