



## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

**FROM:** Department of Parks and Recreation  
1416 Ninth Street  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

**PROJECT TITLE:** Palomar Accessibility Trail Improvements (Project ID No. 017197-77)

**LOCATION:** Palomar Mountain State Park

**COUNTY:** San Diego

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** This project involves accessibility improvements to the existing Doane Pond & Thunder Springs Trails at Palomar Mountain State Park. Accessibility improvements are designed to bring the trails in compliance with California State Parks accessibility guidelines and associated legal mandates. Project implementation will meet accessibility requirements and guidelines as stated in “California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines” and the federal access board’s outdoor recreation guidelines, and will assist in meeting the legal accessibility requirements as stated in the (Tucker v. California Department of Parks and Recreation) consent decree. As a designated Level 3 park for accessibility, it is the Department of Parks and Recreation’s (DPR) responsibility to address providing at least 0.5 miles of accessible trails within the park unit. Once implemented this project would create approximately 0.73 additional miles of accessible trails. The existing Doane Pond Trail is an approximately 0.3 mile trail that originates at the Doane Pond Day-Use parking lot and loops around the pond. The accessibility improvements will reconstruct the existing trail and one adjacent picnic/shade ramada area. Small section of the existing trail along the southeast side of the pond will be shifted a couple of feet away from the pond edge. On the northeast side of the pond a vehicle fish unloading area & overlook area will be constructed to provide a location for Department of Fish & Wildlife to restock the pond. The existing Thunder Springs trail is an approximately 0.43 mile trail that originates on the Doane Pond Trail and ends at the juncture of the Chimney Flats and Upper Doane Valley Trails. Only the portion of the trail from Doane Pond Trail to near the Thunder Springs will be improved to accessibility guidelines. Of the existing trail that is going to be improved, 80% of the trail will be relocated up the slope away from the Doane Creek edge. Relocation of the trail will include the removal and restoration of the existing Thunder Springs trail. The type of improvements on one or both trails will include accessible parking, signage, wall-less turnpikes, wood turnpikes, drain lenses, rock causeways, retaining walls, boardwalks, armored drain crossings, punchon, and 4 bridges. Three accessible parking spaces will be reconstructed at the Doane Pond Day-Use parking lot.

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

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:**

Southern Service Center/Accessibility Unit

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

- Declared Emergency (Section 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (Section 15269(b) and (c))
- Statutory Exemption (Section )
- Categorical Exemption  
Class: 1, 3, 4                      Section: 15301 15303 15304

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** No potential for significant impact to the environment is anticipated in compliance with CEQA §15300.2. If the project is implemented as indicated within the project description including comments provided by CDPR specialists, then it is exempt under CEQA  
DPR 508 (Rev. 4/2003)(Word 2/11/2005)

§15301 – Existing Facilities, §15303 – New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, and §15304 – Minor Alterations to Land. The action falls under the Departmental List of Exempt activities according to CEQA §15300.4 as:

- “Trail or road repairs” (Class 1, Section 15301);
- “Construction or installation of park facilities“ (Class 3, Section 15303); and
- “Trail construction or realignment”, “Grading on land with a slope of less than 10%”, and “Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored” (Class 4, Section 15304)

The project does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees (Class 4).

**CONTACT:** Mike Yengling  
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Southern Service Center

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Barney Matsumoto, Manager  
Southern Service Center

2/22/2021

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DATE