



## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

**FROM:** Department of Parks and Recreation  
Santa Cruz District  
303 Big Trees Park Road  
Felton, CA 95018

**PROJECT TITLE:** Prescribed Burn Project Plan

**LOCATION:** Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park **COUNTY:** Santa Cruz

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** Conduct prescribed fire operations on 481 acres of the sandhills chaparral community within Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park to perpetuate the unique vegetative and wildlife community found on this unusual substrate. Pre-fire treatments will include:

- Subdivision of burn plots into areas of approximately 30 acres;
- Cutting and limbing trees and shrubs less than 24-inches in diameter at breast height (DBH);
- Creation of containment lines with a minimum of 2-inches of bare mineral soil around each plot to ensure firefighter safety and successful holding operations, and to initiate burning on designated burn days; and
- A bulldozer and excavator to crush vegetation material and relocate heavy fuels for safety and ease of burning. Heavy equipment will not be used to disturb soil or create containment lines.

Firefighters will conduct ignition operations from containment lines during designated burn days. All operations will be conducted under management of a California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Burn Boss. Burn prescription aims to kill 95% of above ground shrub cover, reduce duff and litter cover by 90%, reduce 10-hour fuels by 80-100%, avoid all ground disturbing activities within the plots, and minimize risk of escaped fire.

Smoke effects will be managed based on burn day smoke dispersion and adhere to all required permitting. All work will be done in conjunction with DPR Environmental Scientists and include avoidance and minimization measures.

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

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** Santa Cruz District

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

Categorical Exemption

*Class:* 4

*Section:* 15304

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** Project consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation included as “prescribed burns to restore native vegetation, reduce fuel loads, and control invasive exotic or alien species” and “resource management projects” in the Department of Parks and Recreation’s list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR§15300.4.

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Chris Spohrer

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District Superintendent