



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

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
One Capitol Mall, Suite 410
Sacramento, CA 95814

PROJECT TITLE: Big Basin Redwoods Headquarters Interim CZU Improvements

LOCATION: Big Basin Redwoods State Park **COUNTY:** Santa Cruz

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: On August 15, 2020, the CZU Lightning Complex fire destroyed all structures at the Big Basin Redwoods State Park entrance. Since the fire, State Route (Hwy) 236 through the park has been completely closed to the public. However, Caltrans is requiring that State Parks reopen the highway by June 2022 and temporary improvements are needed to accommodate its reopening. This project proposes to install temporary facilities necessary to reopen the park, initially on a reservation system. Work will:

- Install a temporary entry kiosk at the intersection of Hwy 236 and North Escape Rd;
- Install an interpretive center/trailer on the former site of the Nature Lodge Museum & Store;
- Install temporary restroom facilities in an existing parking lot along the east side of North Escape Road and construct a redwood screen around the toilets;
- Backfill excavated building foundations, including those of the former Park Headquarters & Visitor Center and restore the areas to a more natural condition;
- Remove approximately 800 square feet of asphalt pavement to provide for expanded root zones and more natural conditions; and
- Install two (2) pipe gates on North Escape Road, one just north of the proposed kiosk and the second just north of the entrance to the (existing) Phase 2 interim parking lot. Each gate will require excavation of two (2) approximately 12" diameter x 36" deep post holes.

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

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

EXEMPT STATUS:

Statutory Exemption: *Section: 15269*

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

Project consists of the replacement of facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the Government Code.

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Brian Dewey
Deputy Director
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4/13/2022

DATE