

**State of California
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
1416 Ninth Street
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

PROJECT TITLE: Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve Grove Trail & Visitor Experience Renovation

LOCATION: Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve

COUNTY: Mendocino

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: California State Parks, working collaboratively with Save the Redwoods League, proposes to upgrade and reroute a hiking trail, improve parking and picnicking areas, update interpretive panels, and undertake forest restoration activities at Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve to establish sustainable public access and long-term protection of natural resources. Project work will occur in two phases and will:

In Phase 1:

- Realign, restore and/or upgrade approx. 1.06 miles of the existing grove trail;
- Install four (4) boardwalks (approx. 300 ft, 175 ft, 125 ft, & 50 ft);
- Install two (2) bridges (approx. 40 ft & 60 ft);
- Install approx. 240 ft of drain lenses;
- Install approx. 150 ft of turnpike; and
- Reengineer approx. 1160 ft of the former road section of the trail.

In Phase 2:

- Install additional parking spaces in the existing parking lot;
- Construct a retaining wall at the vehicle parking area, across the road from the parking lot;
- Add up to three (3) picnic areas;
- Construct a 450 ft connector trail between the northern and southern sections of the Grove Trail;
- Construct 100 ft of boardwalk in the gathering area;
- Develop and install new interpretive panels; and
- Complete forest restoration & forest health work by completing the following;
 - revegetate areas denuded by visitor use;
 - thin understory vegetation and brush adjacent to trail; and
 - undertake pile burning of branches from tree bases and around facilities to reduce fuel loads.

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

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Sonoma Mendocino Coast District

EXEMPT STATUS: Categorical Exemption Class: 1, 3 & 4 Sections: 15301, 15303 & 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: The project consists of the operation, repair or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities or topographic features; construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes and is included as "Construction or installation of park facilities, such as signs," "Trail construction or realignment," 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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Terry Bertels, District Superintendent

April 13, 2022

DATE