



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 Saddle Mountain Phase 1A Interim Improvements

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

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** On August 15, 2020, the CZU Lightening Complex fire destroyed several structures within the Park. Saddle Mountain was spared extensive damage compared to the Park Headquarters. The site is accessible and in a prime location to provide interim facilities that will facilitate and support park reconstruction and coordination. Work will be done over two initial phases, with Phase 1A encompassing the following work:

- Remove existing non-historic shade structure along the western side of the Dining Hall building.
- Sawcut and remove approximately 2,760 square feet of existing asphalt.
- Form and pour approximately 1,760 square feet of concrete flatwork for ADA path of travel and parking, over 6" of aggregate base. Paths of travel and parking are on the west side of the existing Dining Hall and the southwest side of the existing motel building.
- Install non-structural interior work to Dining Hall and restrooms to accommodate workstations and for accessibility. Non-structural interior work to one motel room for ADA compliance.
- Install accessible parking signs and related appurtenances in location of each accessible space.
- Remove existing entry gate and replace with pipe gate. Gate will require excavation of two post holes approximately 12" in diameter x 36" in depth.
- Re-stripe parking lot and install vehicle barrier logs.

The project will be implemented using measures to limit work in vicinity of any nesting birds. No other special status species have been found or are known to occur in the vicinity of the project area.

Equipment staging, construction, and other project related activities will occur only in paved or previously disturbed areas. Best Management Practices will be used during construction activities and incorporated in the project design to control erosion and sediment runoff. If previously undocumented cultural resources are encountered during project construction, work will cease within thirty feet of the find until a DPR-qualified archaeologist has evaluated the find and implemented appropriate treatment and disposition of the artifact(s). No other special status species have been found or are known to occur in the vicinity of the project area.

**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.

**CONTACT:** Brad Michalk, CEQA Coordinator  
Northern Service Center

**PHONE NO.:** (916) 800-1011  
**EMAIL:** [brad.michalk@parks.ca.gov](mailto:brad.michalk@parks.ca.gov)

DocuSigned by:

*Brian Dewey*

5/3/2022

49244DD07E7B481...  
Brian Dewey, Assistant Deputy Director  
Facilities and Development

DATE