

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
One Capitol Mall, Suite 410
Sacramento, CA 95814

PROJECT TITLE: Alaskan Spur Trail and Sandy Cove Beach

LOCATION: Fort Ross SHP

COUNTY: Sonoma

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Formalize existing select informal trails at Fort Ross State Historic Park by providing minor upgrades to surfaces, installation of wayfinding signs, and constructing or improving interpretive stopping points to enhance the visitor experience and improve visitor safety. Work on the trails will include:

On the existing Foot Trail between the Visitor Center and Old Highway One:

- Replace the existing windmill interpretive panel and excavate four (4) 12-in. dia. x 30-in-deep holes and install one (1) new display panel at the visitor center entry area and relocate the existing Russian Village Panel.

On the existing Old Highway One alignment, construct two (2) new interpretive stopping points, one (1) each at the Call Ranch Picnic Area, and at the Kashia Dance Circle:

- At the proposed dance circle site, upgrade an existing 55 ft long x 5 ft wide access alignment and establish a 6 ft x 10 ft terminus with aggregate base and nonstructural rock edging.
- At the Call Ranch Picnic Area, excavate up to 6-in. deep, where needed, to set approx. seven (7) large (1/4 ton) boulders along the north side at 5-foot intervals to protect the path from traffic from the nearby road.

On the informal exterior trail route linking entrances on the SW and SE sides of the Fort:

- Construct an approx. 5-ft wide x 430-ft long aggregate base trail edged with non-structural rock retaining walls and an approx. 8-ft wide x 35-ft long drain lense to cross an existing drainage swale.
- Construct an approx. 8-ft x 10-ft rock-edged aggregate landing at the site of the existing interpretive panel and, if needed, replace the existing interpretive panel.
- Remove vegetation as needed and reconstruct the existing landing outside the SE portal with a 4 - 6-in. aggregate base and non-structural 6-in. high rock edging. Retain the existing bench in its current location and replace the existing interpretive panel if needed but retain and reuse the existing mounting post.

At the existing Sandy Cove Beach Access, on the point adjacent the existing bench and on the backside of Sandy Cove:

- Excavate up to 6" in depth to establish two (2) new approx. 8-ft x 8-ft aggregate base surfaced and rock edged interpretive stopping points along the route.
- Excavate two (2) holes, 12-in. dia. x 30-in. holes at each stopping point to install one (1) new interpretive panel.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation
NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Northern Service Center

EXEMPT STATUS:

Categorical Exemption Class: 3 & 4 Section: 15303 & 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists of the construction and of limited numbers of new, small facilities and structures and the minor public or private alterations in the condition of land and vegetation and is

included as "Construction or installation of park facilities such as interpretive signing or panels" and "trail construction or realignment" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR §15300.4.

CONTACT: Brad Michalk
Northern Service Center

TELEPHONE: (279) 499-1230
EMAIL: brad.michalk@parks.ca.gov

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Brian Dewey

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Brian Dewey, Assistant Deputy Director
Facilities and Development

6/20/2022

DATE