



## 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:** Cascade Creek Property Acquisition

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

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** Acquire approximately 583 acres of forest land, APNs 057-051-05 and 057-051-06, to be included into Big Basin Redwoods State Park. The property is dominated by coastal redwood and Douglas fir forest. A portion of the property at higher elevation contains outcropping Santa Cruz Mudstone and supports a drier environment suitable for pine and manzanita. The hillsides of the property burned heavily during the 2020 CZU Lightening Complex Fires while the creek side areas had lower fire intensity allowing most redwood trees to survive. Improvements to the property include access via Chalks Road which could allow for potential future access to the park and a creek side trail.

The property could allow visitors to Big Basin Redwoods State Park sweeping views down the property to Año Nuevo State Park and further to the Pacific Ocean. Acquisition of the property will support publicly owned land that safeguard coastal redwoods, wildlife habitat, creeks and waterfalls, cultural and natural resources, and provide recreational opportunities for the park.

**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:* 16

*Section:* 15316

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** Project consists of the acquisition, sale, or other transfer of land in order to establish a park.

**CONTACT:** Linda Hitchcock  
Santa Cruz District

**PHONE NO.:** (831) 227-8390  
**EMAIL:** linda.hitchcock@parks.ca.gov

**X** Chris Spohrer

---

Chris Spohrer  
District Superintendent