CEQA ID# 13629

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
2241 Harvard St., Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95815

PROJECT TITLE: Big Basin Redwoods Saddle Mountain Phase1B 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 Big Basin Redwoods State Park. The Saddle Mountain area was spared extensive damage, in comparison to the Park Headquarters area, and is accessible and in a prime location to provide interim facilities that will facilitate and support park reconstruction and coordination efforts. Work is being done over two initial phases, with Phase 1B encompassing the following work:

In the Entrance Area (outside HWY 236 right-of-way) –
- Remove approx. 300 square feet of AC paving north of dining hall building to facilitate drainage.
- Reconfigure the Park service road and surface with compacted aggregate base rock.
- Construct a drainage swale in the rear (north of) the dining hall.

Camp Host Site Area (just south of existing hotel building) –
- Grade an approx. 17,000 square foot area and construct three (3), 900 square foot compacted aggregate RV pads, each with service hook-ups located on concrete pads.
- Excavate an approx. 300 linear feet of 4 ft deep x 2 ft wide trench and install service utilities (water, sewer, electric) between the service pads and the hotel building.
- Construct accessible concrete and standard parking stalls (xx total).
- Construct an accessible concrete route of travel between new accessible parking and new RV pads.
- Construct five (5) additional compacted aggregate staff parking spaces.
- Construct a 100ft long x 20ft wide compacted aggregate maintenance access road.

Upper and Lower Storage Area(s) –
- Install a rock-lined swale within the existing drainage swale located adjacent to the service road.
- Demolish a non-historic carport/shade structure and a 20 ft section of wood fence.
- Grade and surface two (2) approx. 1000 square feet areas with compacted aggregate to create storage yards.
- Install a total of 715 linear feet of perimeter chain-link fencing (fence posts spaced approx. every 8 ft) and (4) vehicular and (3) personnel access gates, around the two storage areas.

In the Restroom/Shed Area –
- Demolish existing concrete steps and wood retaining wall, and
- Grade for drainage around building (restroom)

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.

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: S*ection:* 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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DocuSigned by:

Brian Dewey   7/19/2022

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Brian Dewey, Assistant Deputy Director   DATE
Facilities and Development