



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: Santa Cruz District Fire Recovery

LOCATION: Big Basin Redwoods State Park and Butano State Park

COUNTY: Santa Cruz and San Mateo

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Complete fuel reduction and soil stabilization activities in Big Basin Redwoods State Park and Butano State Park to aid in the cleanup, recovery and reopening of the park for public use. The work, performed by San Jose Conservation Corps and State Park staff, will be as follows:

For soil stabilization activities along approx. 2.4 miles of the Skyline to the Sea Trail in Big Basin Redwoods State Park work will:

- Remove damaged or destroyed trail structures such as retainer walls and foot bridges;
- Reconstruct trail tread, remove slide debris, as well excavate, backfill, and compact burned out stumps and root systems under trail;
- Use onsite native redwood logs to reconstruct retaining walls to stabilize eroding trail embankments;
- Reconstruct bridges; and
- Naturalize all work sites by spreading native organic duff over disturbed areas. This action utilizes local seed bank from surrounding area to allow germination of native plants species.

For clean-up and fuel reduction activities performed along a total of 4.1 miles of Canyon Trail, Indian Trail, and in the trail camp of Butano State Park, crews will use electric and gas chainsaws, poles saws, and hedge trimmers to:

- Clear all dead and hazardous trees, brush, wood debris, and ladder fuels not consumed during the fire;
- Lop and scatter vegetation on the ground to decompose in locations where steep topography limits burn piles; and
- Stack and pile all woody debris to be burned at a later date during planned prescribed burn activities.

State Park staff will identify and mark all hazard trees for removal as well as flag sensitive plant species to be saved. For the duration of the proposed activities potable water deliveries and portable toilet services will be provided due to the extensive damage to the Parks' water systems.

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: 1 & 4

Section: 13501 & 13504

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists of the operation, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond current levels, and minor public or private alterations in the condition of land or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees and is included as "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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Chris Spohrer

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District Superintendent