

CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: County Clerk
County of Humboldt
825 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Office of Planning Research
State Clearinghouse

FROM: City of Eureka, Lead Agency
Development Services - Planning
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PROJECT TITLE: Camp Cooper Environmental Education Camp

PROJECT APPLICANT: City of Eureka Community Services – Recreation Division

PROJECT LOCATION: Cooper Gulch Park, 1720 10th Street, Eureka, CA 95501

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Camp Cooper Environmental Education Camp (Camp Cooper) is a free outdoor environmental education camp for disadvantaged youth ages 5-12 that operates Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout the summer. The program has a capacity to have up to 40 campers and eight temporary staff. Camp Cooper is located at City-owned Cooper Gulch Park and managed by the City's Community Services Recreation Division. Cooper Gulch Park contains a 33-acre urban forest with sports fields, walking trails and Cooper Creek, a tributary to Humboldt Bay. Camp Cooper emphasizes environmental education experiences and engagement opportunities for youth to learn and participate in stewardship, wildlife habitat restoration, conservation and interpretation at Cooper Gulch Park. Activities and experiences provided at the camp include bird watching, invertebrate discovery, introduction to tracking, categories (scat studies), mini-water cycle observation, dam building, and a salmon spawn obstacle course. The City has successfully implemented the camp for eight summers from 2015 to 2023. The City has requested grant funding from the California State Parks' Habitat Conservation Fund Grant Program – Wildlife Area Activities to continue to offer the camp free of charge for all participants from 2024 through 2029, including free lunches.

EXEMPTION FINDINGS: The City of Eureka as Lead Agency has determined that the above described activity is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Lead Agency has further determined that the project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to a Class I categorical

exemption (Sections 15301), which exempts the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use. The proposed project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to a Class I (15303) exemption, as the project involves operating and managing an existing program (Camp Cooper) at an existing facility (City-owned Cooper Gulch Park), the same location where the camp has occurred for the past eight years. There will not be any physical changes to the site as a result of this project, and the use (daytime supervised youth recreation) is typical for this park facility. Further, the Lead Agency has determined that use of the categorical exemption is not barred by one of the exceptions set forth in Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines.

The material supporting the above finding is on file with the City of Eureka's Community Services Department. Copies of the documents related to the evaluation of this project are available for review upon request at the City of Eureka, 531 K Street, Eureka, CA, 95501.



Cristin Kenyon
Director of Development Services, City of Eureka

December 14, 2023
Date