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Date Filed:

District Project # 22/23-SD-11
ER # 13811

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
1416 Ninth Street
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

PROJECT TITLE: Southern Cactus Scrub Restoration
LOCATION: San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park
COUNTY: San Diego

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Since 1988, portions of the park have burned three times. The portions that supported southern cactus scrub vegetation did not burn or burned at a lower intensity, whereas coastal sage scrub became impaired by a proliferation of invasive annual grasses, mustards, and stinknet (*Oncosiphon pilulifer*) that reduced native shrub cover and recruitment. Repeated wildfires have the potential to further convert valuable coastal sage scrub shrublands to nonnative annual grasslands. This Wildfire and Forest Resilience Program project will improve the resiliency of shrubland vegetation to high frequency fire by planting prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia littoralis, O. oricola*) across approximately 3.7 acres and reducing the cover of invasive weeds across approximately 9.5 acres at San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park. Eight project work zones were selected based on restoration need, accessibility, and topography. Existing vegetation in the project area is primarily impaired coastal sage scrub. Site establishment will take several years, after which the site will be maintained by the Natural Resources Program.

Measures to avoid impact and further project detail may be obtained by submitting a request to the project Environmental Coordinator listed below.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: San Diego Coast District

EXEMPT STATUS:
☐ Declared Emergency (Section 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (Section 15269(b) and (c))
☐ Statutory Exemption (Section)
☒ Categorical Exemption
Class: 4 *Section:* 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: No potential for significant impact to the environment is anticipated in compliance with CEQA §15300.4. If the project is implemented as indicated within the CDPR Project Evaluation Form, including conditions provided by CDPR reviewers, then it is exempt under CEQA §15304–Minor Alterations to Land. The action falls under the Departmental List of Exempt activities according to CEQA §15300.4 as

Class 4: Section 15304:

- "Resource management projects"

CONTACT: Marya Ahmad
District Environmental Coordinator
San Diego Coast District

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EMAIL: marya.ahmad@parks.ca.gov

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Nicole Van Doren
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1/5/2024

Nicole Van Doren
San Diego Coast
Acting District Superintendent

Date