

State of California
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
12301 North Hwy 1
Mendocino, CA 95460

PROJECT TITLE: Armstrong Asphalt Removal

LOCATION: Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve **COUNTY:** Sonoma

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: The project proposes to remove approx. 3,000 square feet of an old asphalt road from an old growth forest area in Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve to restore the natural ecosystem and enhance the aesthetic experience of the park. The road was made redundant by a fallen redwood tree in winter 2023 and the remaining asphalt disrupts the delicate balance of the forest, contributes to soil erosion, vegetation damage, and the spread of non-native species. Removing the asphalt will improve water infiltration, protect tree roots, and allow for the natural decay of the downed redwood, which provides essential habitat for native wildlife.

State Parks hand crews will use light equipment to remove the asphalt, replant the restored area with native species, and install two (2) gates to manage vehicle traffic to ensure visitor safety while maintaining access to the Redwood Forest Theater.

This work will occur outside of peak visitor seasons and sensitive breeding periods to protect wildlife and avoid erosion.

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

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Sonoma-Mendocino Coast District

EXEMPT STATUS:

Categorical Exemption Class: 1 & 4 Sections: 15301 & 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists of the operation or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of current use; and minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

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William Maslach, District Superintendent 27 April 2023
DATE