

District Project # 730-307-20240422  
CEQA# 14104



**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  
Central Valley District  
22708 Broadway Street  
Columbia, CA 95310

**PROJECT TITLE:** McChesney Building HVAC Upgrade

**LOCATION:** Columbia State Historic Park

**COUNTY:** Tuolumne

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** The purpose of this project is to replace the current AC unit on the Mcchesney Building in Columbia State Historic Park with new mini split heating and cooling units and install a new water heater to provide better climate control for the building, allowing its continued use for interpretive and/or concessionaire purposes. Work will:

- Remove the existing roof-mounted evaporative cooler and patch roof penetrations, as necessary;
- Construct a roof platform for the new Ductless HVAC system to be located on the roof;
- Install a Multi-Zone condensing unit with a distribution box in the attic space above the bathrooms;
- Install three (3) air handlers, two (2) on the wall that divides the main store front from the kitchen and bathrooms/ hallway, and one (1) in the upper story artifact storage space on the north wall dividing the janitor closet from the main room;
- Install condensate pumps on all air handlers to ensure moisture is pumped out of the building;
- Install a new electrical breaker to support the new units and utilize the electrical circuit and ductwork from the removed AC to run electrical lines; and
- Remove the existing electric water heater and copper water lines and install a new 40-gallon electric water heater and 3/4-in. PEX waterlines.

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

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** Central Valley District

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

X Categorical Exemption

*Class:* 1, 2, 3 & 31

*Section:* 15301, 15302, 15303 & 15331

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** Project consists of the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond current levels and is listed as "Utility repairs or minor upgrades" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR § 15300.4; and the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced; installation of small, new equipment and facilities in small structures; and consists of projects limited to maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, conservation or reconstruction of historical resources in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings (1995), Weeks and Grimmer.

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Central Valley District

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Danielle Gerhart  
District Superintendent  
Central Valley District

8/12/2024

DATE