



**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  
Diablo Range District  
15751 Tesla Road  
Livermore, CA 94550

**PROJECT TITLE:** San Juan Bautista State Historic Park Tree Removal

**LOCATION:** San Juan Bautista State Historic Park

**COUNTY:** San Benito

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** The purpose of the project is to remove five (5) trees from San Juan Bautista State Historic Park to eliminate any potential hazards these trees may present to the historic structures in the park. The trees proposed for removal include one (1) invasive Tree of Heaven, located between the Castro-Breen House and the Plaza Hotel, that presents a hazard to the historic Castro-Breen House, three (3) ornamental olive trees that crowd native garden species, and one (1) Pepper tree which is in poor health. State Parks staff and contractors will:

- Wrap the grinding stone and the interpretative panel located next to the tree of heaven with a protective covering to prevent damage during work;
- Use chainsaws to remove the tree of heaven to level grade then grind the stump to no more than 12 inches below grade;
- Use Roundup to treat the tree of heaven stump remains to prevent resprouting;
- Use chainsaws to cut the three (3) olive trees and one (1) pepper tree to level grade; and
- Grind the stumps and dispose of all debris off site.

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

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** Diablo Range District

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

Categorical Exemption    *Class:* 1, 4 & 31    *Section:* 15301, 15304 & 15331

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** Project consists of the minor alteration of existing public or private topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond current levels; minor alteration in the condition of land and vegetation which does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees; preservation of a historic resource, 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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DocuSigned by:

*Clinton Elsholz*

9/27/2024

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Clinton Elsholz  
State Park Superintendent  
Diablo Range District

DATE