



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:** Parkwide Defensible Space and Boundary Vegetation Modifications

**LOCATION:** Benicia State Recreation Area

**COUNTY:** Solano

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** Conduct vegetation modification within Benicia State Recreation Area for wildfire resilience and fuel management. Work will be completed by Department staff, Department-hired contractors, and/or by issuing Right of Entry (ROE) Permits to adjacent property owners to allow the permittee's contractor to perform necessary vegetation modifications that are consistent with all Department guidelines and policies. All activities will adhere to the following standard conditions:

- No trees above 12-inches diameter at breast height (DBH) will be removed unless doing so meets forest management goals for the park as determined by the Senior Environmental Scientist in advance.
- Pruning will follow techniques outlined in the Department's "Vegetation Management Guidelines for Trails and Roads in Units of the California State Park System" (January 8, 2002).
- Heavy equipment shall not operate or stage within the root health zone of retained trees, defined as an area five (5) times the DBH.
- Dispose of debris from vegetation management/brushing activities as follows (listed in order of preferred method):
  - Remove offsite
  - Chip and broadcast (away from all drainages and tree trunks and not exceed 4 inches deep in any given area) scatter away from public view.
- Develop a site-specific strategy to ensure resource management goals are met and to address existing invasive plant species, including monitoring and follow-up treatments as necessary.

Further details regarding the work proposed as well as measures to be implemented to avoid impacts to the environment may be obtained by submitting a request to the project Environmental Coordinator listed below. Work will comply with all State and Federal environmental laws, including but not limited to the Endangered Species Act, California Environmental Quality Act, Section 5024 of the Public Resources Code, and all conditions identified in the Right of Entry Permit; and be coordinated with the Diablo Range District's staff as identified in the Right of Entry Permit.

**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, 5

*Section:* 15301, 15304, 15305

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** Project consists of the operation, repair, maintenance or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond current levels; minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees; and minor alterations in land use limitations in areas with an average slope of less than 20%, which do not result in any changes in land use or

density and are included as “Resource management projects” and “issuance of temporary use permit” in the Department of Parks and Recreation’s list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR § 15300.4

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*Original Signature on File*

Clinton Elsholz  
State Park Superintendent  
Diablo Range District